



B. Kosuge Wines

2010 Soberanes Santa Lucia Highlands Pinot Noir

Gary Franscioni is a driven man. I have made wine from his Garys' Vineyard for other clients for many years. I like to think we are sympatico with regard to the extremely high standards we have for how grapes are grown and wine is made. A few years ago, he began developing the parcel immediately adjoining Garys' vineyard. Even though the focus of B Kosuge Wines has always been the North Coast, so that I did not conflict with the several brands for whom I make Santa Lucia Highlands based wines, I could not resist trying a little of the fruit from Gary's new vineyard, named Soberanes.

I have written elsewhere that 2010 was a bit of a tricky vintage. This is more true in the North Coast than it was in the Santa Lucia Highlands, where the weather is usually more forgiving and less extreme than other parts of the state. While harvest was a bit on the late side here, as in other parts of California, the wines were still luscious and ripe, not so different from recent, warmer vintages. For the 2010 Soberanes, I used a fair bit of whole bunches in the fermentor to give some lift to the aromas and a little structure to the palate. And like all my wines, I used a light hand with the oak. The resulting wine is expressive and forward, typical of the Highlands, deeply colored and plush. A very true expression of the Santa Lucia Highlands indeed. I made just 75 cases, at \$45/bottle.