



Twisted Oak Winery

River of Skulls

2008 Calaveras County

TASTING NOTES

With a name like **River of Skulls**, you know it has to be good... An ankle bone of **black cherries** is connected to the shin bone of **raspberries**, which connects to the knee bone of **smoky oak**. The knee bone is connected to the leg bone of **Mourvedre's natural tobacco character**, which connects to the hip bone, back bone and neck bone of a **nice long bright fruit finish**. Oh Dem Skulls!

PRODUCTION NOTES

The Dalton vineyard is in the vicinity of the **Calaveras River, AKA the River of Skulls**. It is a beautiful vineyard out on **Dogtown Road** here in Calaveras and is planted with about 8 different varietals, all sustainably grown. In fact the vineyard is in it's third year of completing a third-party organic certification process.

The **Spanish clone** of Mourvedre is what makes up the lion's share of this wine. This Mourvedre is usually one of the last blocks we pick. Because of the severe **frost damage** in 2008, followed by a very warm growing season, this lot was ready earlier than usual in mid-September. The wine was crushed into small bins for fermentation with approximately 30% of the berries **uncrushed**. This gives the wine more **cherry** fruit characters. After fermentation, 11% Syrah from the same vineyard was blended in to enhance the backbone. The wine was aged in new oak barrels as well as neutral barrels.

TECHNICAL NITTY GRITTY

Varietals & Vineyards:
89% Mourvedre, 11% Syrah,
both from the Dalton Vineyards, Angels Camp

Harvest Date:
September 19, 2008

Oak Program:
35% New French oak, 25% New American oak, 40% Neutral oak

Food Pairings: Dead People!
Just kidding - How about Lamb, Pork and Risotto?

Suggested Retail Price: \$35
459 cases produced
(Cool Skull Artwork designed by A Stai!)

Still Confused? Don't be! Just check out our **"Geek Sheet Cheat Sheet"**

