DASHE
CELLARS

2015 'Les Enfants Terribles' Zinfandel
McFadden Farm, Potter Valley

History

One of our all-time favorite wines from one of our favorite organic vineyards, high up in the mountains in Mendocino County. The rocky, chalk-rich site in Potter Valley is a very unusual spot for a Zinfandel vineyard—in fact, the vines are surrounded by white grape varietals of Riesling, Gewürztraminer, and Pinot Gris. As you might imagine, it makes a very unusual Zinfandel, lighter in color and texture than a more typical Zinfandel, but bursting with rich, complex flavors and silky texture.

We modeled this wine after the highest-quality wines (Grand Cru wines) from the Beaujolais region of France. Its light color, excellent aromatics, and silky smooth texture mark it as a more "Old World" style of wine; extremely drinkable and enjoyable on its own.

Production

We make this wine using a technique called "carbonic maceration." About 10% of the grapes are pitchforked into the tank as whole clusters. We do not crush the remaining grapes, and instead let the whole berries fill the tank.

After fermentation, the wine is racked into a special aging barrel—a giant 900-gallon French oak barrel from Burgundy, whose large format allows us to age the wine without much oak flavor in the wine. The result is a very fruit-forward wine that has much of the character and texture of oak-aged wine, but without the typical oak flavoring.

We only age the wine for four or five months in barrel, and then immediately bottle it to capture the fresh fruit character of the wine. The result is beautifully balanced wine that is delicate, yet with lots of complexity and great length in the finish.

Production Notes :

Varietals
100% Zinfandel
(even though it tastes like Gamay!)

Appellation
Potter Valley,
Mendocino County

Alcohol
13.2 % by vol.

Time in oak
5 months

Oak
900 gallon Foudre
French barrel

Production
371 cases, 750ml

Release date
May 1st, 2016

Optimum time for consumption
2016-2026

Suggested Retail
$26 btl, 750ml

Tasting Notes :

Color : Pale red

Aroma : Intense aromas of pomegranate, cranberry, red raspberries and wild strawberry, followed by earthy notes and hints of white pepper, rose and violets.

Taste : Suprisingly lucious and full-bodied considering the wine's color. A velvety and mouth-coating texture, beautiful red fruit: cranberry, pomegranate and darker hints of black raspberry and plum. Great acidity to balance the sweetness of the fruit, and a long, sweet fruit-filled finish. A classic.