

## 2016 'The Comet' Sonoma County



### History

The Comet is a blend of three varietals: a 53-year-old vine Zinfandel from Geyserville, a 131-year-old vine Carignane from Sonoma Valley, and a significant proportion—39% of the blend—of an Alexander Valley Petite Sirah. Together, they make a rich, complex, full-bodied wine with a tremendous depth of flavor. It's one of the most intense wines we make at Dashe Cellars, and is ideal match for grilled meats or rich sauces.

The Zinfandel and Petite Sirah come from the Todd Brothers Ranch, a steep, red-rock vineyard in the Alexander Valley, where the vines struggle to produce a small quantity of grapes resulting in great intensity and structure. The old-vine Carignane is from the famous Bedrock Vineyard, a vineyard that was originally planted by Generals Sherman and Hooker after the Civil War. These particular Carignane vines were planted in 1888.

### Production

The vintage of 2016 was a relatively early harvest, and had normal to small yields, resulting in dark, highly flavored wines. We fermented each grape varietal separately, using the native yeasts resident on the grape skins. Each wine was aged for six months separately, before we carefully created the Comet blend. The wine was aged for a total of 18 months in French oak barrels, 85% in older oak, since we prefer the flavor of the fruit to not be overpowered.

We blended in 39% of Petite Sirah to maximize richness, and then added 10% of Carignane as a “spice rack” wine for bright fruit and complexity. The resulting wine absolutely bowled us over with its rich texture and depth of flavors.

### Production Notes :

#### Varietals

51% Zinfandel;  
39% Petite Sirah  
10% Carignane

#### Appellation

Sonoma County

#### Alcohol

14.5% by vol.

#### Time in oak

18 months

#### Oak

15% new French Oak;  
85% 1-year or older  
French barrels

#### Production

309 cases, 750ml

#### Release date

February 1, 2019

#### Optimum time for consumption

2019-2030

### Tasting Notes:

**Color:** Purple-black

**Aroma:** Black cherry, blackberry, hints of pomegranate, followed by elements of black pepper, cocoa powder, coffee, and black licorice.

**Taste:** A very structured wine, with a beautiful texture, good balance, and firm tannins. The entry is of black cherry, blackberry, and pomegranate, cocoa powder, clove, with a long, spicy, black cherry and black pepper finish. Great weight on the tongue with a slight tannic—almost cabernet-like—structure.