



2016 Zinfandel Reserve, Dry Creek Valley



History

Since 1996, Dashe Cellars has been making Zinfandels from the Dry Creek Valley. To celebrate our 20 years of making wine from the region, we have selected some of the best vineyards—and the best barrels from lots within the vineyards—to create a special Dry Creek Reserve. We wanted to show off the best characteristics of the Dry Creek Valley with an intensity, a complex spectrum of flavors, and a balance of pure fruit flavors and bright acidity which are typical for that area. This Reserve wine is a particularly complex, lovely, and fruit-forward wine—a classic, balanced Dry Creek Zinfandel.

Production

The vintage of 2016 featured ideal ripening conditions in the Dry Creek Valley, warm but not excessively hot. We harvested the grapes in mid- to late-September. As normal, we hand-sorted the grapes on arrival at the winery, to remove leaves or less-than-perfect grapes. Using a small, gentle destemmer, we carefully removed the stems and kept a proportion of the grapes as whole berries to increase the wine's natural fruitiness.

The wine was fermented using only the natural yeast population on the grapes—our tradition at Dashe Cellars—and the resulting wine shows off the terroir of the vineyards beautifully. The wine was aged for 13 months in 20% new French oak barrels, and the remainder in older French oak barrels to gain the softness of oak aging without adding excessive oak flavors. Before the final blend, we tasted all our barrels to select out only the best Zinfandel lots for this reserve wine. Finally, in our blending trials, we added about 8% of Petite Sirah, for structure and long aging potential.

Production Notes :

Varietals

92% Zinfandel; 8% Petite Sirah

Appellation

Dry Creek Valley, Sonoma County

Alcohol

14.8% by vol.

Time in oak

13 months

Oak

80% 1-year or older French oak
20% new french oak

Production

1133 cases, 750ml
500 cases, 375ml

Release date

September 1st, 2018

Optimum time for consumption

2018-2030

Tasting Notes:

Color: Black-purple

Aroma: : Blackberry, black current, hints of plum, cherry, and chocolate, with an underlying floral component of violets.

Taste : Sweet blackberry and cassis, pomegranate, plum, hints of chocolate and licorice. One of the most intense and complex Dry Creek Zinfandels we've made, with dark chocolate and black pepper spice underlying the velvety, intense midpalate and the balanced, sweet red-fruit finish.