

2016 Zinfandel Louvau Vineyard Old Vines



History

One of our favorite vineyards in all of the Dry Creek Valley, the vines at the Louvau Vineyard grow straight out of the rocky ground on the “bench” of the east Dry Creek Valley. In fact, these vines were hidden away under a thick patch of raspberry vines and weeds when John Louvau bought the property in the late ‘70s. It was only after he cleared the weeds to plant grapevines did he discover that he already had a small vineyard on the property: old, gnarled trunks of Zinfandel that were over 100 years old. The vines are head-trained and are pruned so that they are quite low to the ground, resulting in tiny yields of concentrated fruit.

Production

As is typical, these vines ripened early, and were harvested in early September. In 2016, the grapes ripened particularly early, and produced very dark, concentrated fruit that made a wine with great structure and complexity.

As always, we hand-sorted the grapes on a conveyor belt on the way to the crusher to eliminate any leaves, rocks, or imperfect fruit. The crushed grapes were then fermented using only the native yeast population on the surface of the grapes (rather than commercial dried yeasts) to conduct the fermentation. At dryness, the wine was gently pressed in a membrane press and pumped to traditional 60-gallon oak barrels. The wine was aged for 18 months in one-year or older French oak barrels, to keep the vibrancy of the fruit.

Production Notes :

Varietals

100% Zinfandel

Appellation

Dry Creek Valley,
Sonoma County

Alcohol

14.9 % by vol.

Time in oak

18 months

Oak

90% older French oak
10% new French oak

Production

103 cases, 750ml

Optimum time for consumption

2019-2029

Tasting Notes:

Color: Dark purple

Aroma: Black cherry, cassis, strawberry compote, honeycomb, with almost overpowering lavender and violet floral notes.

Taste: Luscious, velvety texture, great tannic structure, black cherry and pomegranate fruit, honey, earth, black pepper. Crisp acidity; shows a great complexity and balance. Very persistent black cherry and black pepper finish.