

2017 “Les Enfants Terribles” Grenache



History

These Grenache grapes are grown on a flat, rocky, former riverbed along the San Joaquin delta near the town of Clarksburg. Although the days are quite warm, the nights are quite cool because cold air and fog from the ocean flows up the river valley at night which chills down the vines. These hot days and cold nights results in fruit with bright, vibrant aromatics and great acidity.

We love the fresh, red fruit of these Grenache grapes, which produce one of the most drinkable and lovely wines we produce at Dashe Cellars. Because of the way we make this wine—fermented with the native yeasts on the grapes; aged in large, French oak barrels; unfinned; and bottled with low SO₂ levels—we felt this is an ideal addition to our Les Enfants Terribles (the “Wild Children”) series, wines made in an Old World style. The resulting purity of flavor, velvety texture, and lush midpalette is a break from the brash, fruit-forward style of many Californian wines.

Production

The grapes were harvested in the middle of the night to keep the grapes very cold, and maintain the fruit aromatics and acidity. Since we loved the character of the fruit, we aged the wine in one of our 900 gallon French oak casks from Burgundy (15 times the size of a “normal” French oak barrel). By using the larger oak vessel, we intentionally kept this wine away from heavy oak influences, and the short aging process enhanced the lovely fruit character of the wine.

Production Notes :

Varietals

97% Grenache
3% Zinfandel

Appellation

Clarksburg

Alcohol

13.5 % by vol.

Time in oak

7 months

Oak

900 gallon older
French barrel

Production

412 cases, 750ml

Release date

May 2018

Optimum time for consumption

2018-2023

Tasting Notes:

Color: Pale red

Aroma: Wild strawberry, pomegranate, spice, minerals.

Taste: Beautiful velvety texture. Entry of intense strawberry, raspberry, and pomegranate fruit. Beautiful floral elements of lavender and violets, long, sweet finish of red fruit, minerals and peppery spice.