

2017 'The Comet' Sonoma County



History

The Comet is a blend of three varietals that complement each other beautifully: Zinfandel, Carignane, and Petite Sirah. Together, they make a rich, complex, full-bodied wine with a tremendous depth of flavor. Each varietal adds flavor components and textural elements that create a wine that is a perfect complement to grilled meats or savory sauces—you can use The Comet to accompany foods much the way you would a nicely-aged Cabernet Sauvignon.

The Petite Sirah comes 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 comes from 100+ year old vines from the historic Oat Valley vineyard in the Alexander Valley. Finally, the Zinfandel comes from 100 year old vines on one of most favorite vineyards in the Dry Creek Valley, the Louvau family vineyard.

Production

The vintage of 2017 was a challenging year, with variable temperatures and fires in the wine country that devastated parts of Sonoma County. Luckily, we harvested our grapes before the fires began, and so were unaffected by the fires. Our vineyards produced relatively small yields, resulting in dark, highly flavored wines. We fermented each grape varietal separately, using the native yeasts resident on the grape skins, and aged the wine for 14 months in French oak barrels. At blending, we used 25% of Petite Sirah to maximize richness and added 10% of Carignane as a “spice rack” wine for bright fruit and complexity. The resulting wine absolutely shines with its rich texture and depth of flavors.

Production Notes:

Varietals

65% Zinfandel;
25% Petite Sirah
10% Carignane

Appellation

Sonoma County

Alcohol

14.8% by vol.

Time in oak

14 months

Oak

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

Production

381 cases, 750ml

Release date

September 1, 2019

Optimum time for consumption

2020-2040

Tasting Notes:

Color: Purple-black

Aroma: Chocolate, black cherry, blackberry, and black current, followed by elements of toffee, vanilla, black pepper, and coffee.

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