

2018 Old-Vine Zinfandel, Bedrock Vineyard



History

Planted in 1888, these vines are from one of the oldest and most storied vineyards in California, the Bedrock Vineyard in Sonoma Valley. Originally purchased and planted by Civil War generals Sherman and Hooker, this beautiful site produces some of the most ethereal wines from Sonoma County. Unlike many old-vine vineyards from the 1800s or early 1900s, this vineyard was planted such that each varietal was kept distinct, so that these Zinfandel vines are mostly varietal Zinfandel with the odd Petite Sirah, Carignane, or Mourvèdre vine rarely popping up in the rows. The ranch is owned by Joel Peterson, the retired founder of Ravenswood winery, and managed by his son, Morgan.

Production

The vines from Bedrock Vineyard ripened early in 2018, which was lucky since the vineyard was completely picked before the fires that affected many vineyards in the area began. A small crop, as is typical from this vineyard, produced tiny, concentrated grapes. The grapes were trucked to the winery in 1000 lb. picking bins, and hand-sorted before the crusher.

The grapes were fermented using the yeasts on the surface of the grapes. This native yeast method maximizes flavor, color, and complexity from the grapes. At dryness, the wine was gently pressed in a membrane press and pumped to 60-gallon French oak barrels.

This vintage is marked by an unusual purity of flavor and beautiful, silky texture. One of the best Zinfandels we have ever made from this ranch, the Bedrock Vineyard Zinfandel would be a perfect selection for long-term aging in the cellar.

Production Notes:

Varietals

100% Zinfandel

Appellation

Sonoma Valley,
Sonoma County

Alcohol

13.5% by vol.

Time in oak

18 months

Oak

90% 1-year or older
French oak 120 gal
puncheons and 60 gal
barrels, 10% new 60
gal French Oak barrels

Production

70 cases, 750ml

Optimum time for consumption

2019-2035

Tasting Notes:

Color: Purple with reddish hues

Aroma: Black raspberry, pomegranate, black cherry, earth, black pepper

Taste: Very structured wine with a great balance of firm acidity and silky tannins. Entry of black raspberry, black cherry, pomegranate, and peppery spice. As it opens, hints of rosemary and thyme spice develop and the wine finishes with persistent fruit and spice flavors and a structured, slightly tannic finish that softens with time.