

2018 Old-Vine Zinfandel Louvau Vineyard



History

These 100+ year old vines at the Louvau Vineyard grow straight out of the rocky ground on the “bench” of the east Dry Creek Valley, our favorite terroir for Zinfandel in the 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 around 80 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, we harvested the old vine grapes first of all the blocks of Zinfandel on this ranch, in early September. The warm summer days (and cool nights) produced optimal maturity, and resulted in dark, concentrated fruit and a wine with great structure and complexity.

As always, we hand-sorted the grapes on a conveyor belt to eliminate leaves, rocks, or imperfect fruit. The crushed grapes were then fermented using only the native yeast population on the surface of the grapes to conduct the fermentation. At dryness, the wine was gently pressed in a membrane press and pumped to French oak barrels. The wine was aged for 22 months to develop complexity and soften the significant tannins in the wine.

Production Notes:

Varietals

98% Zinfandel
2% Petite Sirah

Appellation

Dry Creek Valley,
Sonoma County

Alcohol

13.8 % by vol.

Time in oak

22 months

Oak

15% new French oak
20% 1-year French oak
65% neutral barrels

Production

82 cases, 750ml

Optimum time for consumption

2021-2036

Tasting Notes:

Color: Dark red

Aroma: Black cherry, blackberry, earthy, chocolate, licorice, vanilla

Taste: Quite structured with a good balance of fruit, tannin and acid. Entry of blackberry and pomegranate fruit, black current, honey, earth, black pepper. Crisp acidity; shows a great complexity and balance. Very persistent black cherry and black pepper finish.