

2018 “Les Enfants Terribles” Zinfandel Mendocino Cuvee



History

The grapes for this blend came from Signal Ridge Vineyard — at over 3000 feet, the highest elevation vineyard in all of Mendocino, Napa, and Sonoma Counties. The elevation of the vineyard is so distinctive that it falls within a special appellation, the “Mendocino Ridge,” which is the *only* appellation in America that is designated on basis of elevation. The high elevation, steep slopes, and extremely rocky soil make the ideal growing conditions for making complex, balanced, compelling wines.

We modeled this wine after Grand Cru wines from the Beaujolais region of France. Its light red color, excellent aromatics, and silky smooth texture mark it as a more “Old World” style of wine; extremely drinkable and enjoyable on its own.

Production

We make this wine using a technique called “carbonic maceration.” About 10% of the grapes are pitchforked into the tank as whole clusters. We do not crush the remaining grapes, and instead let the whole berries fill the tank. The tank is closed and blanketed with CO2 gas, and the fermentation is then conducted using the native yeasts on the grapes. This technique results in a distinctive fruity aroma, lighter color, and complex midpalate.

After fermentation, the wine is racked into a special aging barrel—a giant 900-gallon French oak foudre from Burgundy, whose large format allows us to age the wine without much oak flavor in the wine.□The result is a very fruit-forward wine that has much of the character and texture of oak-aged wine, but without the typical oak flavoring.

We age the wine for five months in barrel, and then immediately bottle it to capture the fresh fruit character of the wine.□The result is beautifully balanced wine that is delicate, yet with lots of complexity and great length in the finish.

Production Notes :

Varietals

100% Zinfandel

Appellation

Mendocino
Ridge

Alcohol

13.9% by vol.

Time in oak

5 months

Oak

900 gallon French Oak
“foudre”

Production

854 cases, 750ml

Tasting Notes :

Color: Cherry red

Aroma: Raspberry, pomegranate, plum, and fresh earth, followed by hints of white pepper and minerals.

Taste: Raspberry, cranberry and darker hints of black cherry and plum.□ Great acidity to balance the sweetness of the fruit, and a long, spicy red fruit finish.