

2018 Old-Vine Zinfandel, Todd Brothers Ranch



History

Here at Dashe Cellars we've been making Zinfandel from the Todd Brothers Ranch since 1998. It's one of our favorite vineyards in all of Sonoma County: the soil is a brilliant bright red color due to volcanic iron deposits, and the rocky slope in Geyserville makes the vines struggle to produce grapes. The result is unusually small, intensely concentrated grapes that produce dark purple, luscious wines. These head-trained vines consistently produce grapes with almost cabernet-like intensity and structure, yet still possessing the characteristic balance and sensuous texture of a Zinfandel.

Production

We were lucky in the 2018 harvest since we picked the Todd Brothers Ranch many days before the fires and smoke that afflicted many grapes in Sonoma and Napa counties. It's always one of our earliest ripening vineyards, and we picked at the Todd Brothers ranch in the early morning on September 10th. 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 120- and 60-gallon French oak barrels.

During the blending, we decided that this year's Todd Brothers Ranch Zinfandel was ideal as 100% Zinfandel, and did not need any additional varietals such as Petite Sirah to improve the wine. The result is a wine that tastes lovely on release but will continue to evolve and improve for many years in the cellar.

Production Notes:

Varietals

100% Zinfandel

Appellation

Alexander Valley
Sonoma County

Alcohol

14.9% by vol.

Time in oak

18 months

Oak

20% new French oak
120 gal puncheons;
40% 1-year or older
puncheons; 10% new
60 gal French Oak
barrels; 30% older
French Oak 60 gal
barrels

Production

224 cases, 750ml

Optimum time for consumption

2022-2040

Tasting Notes:

Color: Purple with reddish hues

Aroma: Black raspberry, black currants, plum, chocolate, coffee, graphite, pepper, and an earthy finish.

Taste: A big, structured wine with a sensuous texture. Beautiful entry of cassis and black raspberry, chocolate, peppery spice, luscious texture and a firm acid structure, earth and minerals, and chalky tannins. Persistent fruit finish of black currant, peppery spice, chocolate and black raspberry fruit.