

2009

LATE HARVEST

zinfandel

VARIETY: 98% zinfandel, 2% black muscat**APPELLATION:** Sonoma County**HARVEST DATE:** October 9th**DEGREES BRIX AT HARVEST:** 32.0**pH:** 4.1**ALCOHOL:** 14.2%**RESIDUAL SUGAR:** 11%

VINIFICATION NOTES: Well-ripened zinfandel grapes were picked at high, late-harvest sugar levels, with a fair degree of raisining of the fruit. The grapes were sorted by hand, destemmed and crushed, and fermentation was carried out in a closed-top tank with pumpovers performed twice daily. After seven days, fermentation was stopped short of dryness, allowing a portion of the natural sugar to remain in the wine. To preserve the subtle fruit characteristics that define an exceptional late harvest bottling, the wine was aged and blended in stainless steel tanks.

SENSORY NOTES: Our Late Harvest zinfandel is a deliciously decadent take on Bella's favorite varietal. Heady aromatics of candied cherry and spicy Mexican chocolate lead to flavors of sweet berry and herbal spice. With a clean, slightly tart finish, this desert wine naturally complements dark chocolate or aged Stilton cheese.

VINEYARD NOTES: This wine is crafted as a blend of fruit from our Lily Hill Estate and Big River Ranch. Each year, we designate several small sub-blocks of vines on each property for this prized dessert wine. The grapes from these blocks are left on the vine to develop higher levels of sugar and ripeness, making them ideal raw material for a late harvest wine.

VINTAGE SYNOPSIS: In 2009, growers in Sonoma County experienced a long, temperate growing season that ended with a strong October rainstorm. The relatively cool season, especially during harvest, allowed for ample hangtime and slow, even ripening, contributing to overall flavor development, while preserving natural acidity. Our late harvest grapes were picked at ideal ripeness two days before the October storm, capturing the full, rich potential of the vintage.

CELLAR RECOMMENDATION: Best from 2010 through 2020.

RETAIL PRICE: \$25 Strictly limited production. Only 900 cases produced.

Bella

VINEYARDS & WINE CAVES