

2023

Rockpile

zinfandel

winemaker notes

VARIETY: 94% zinfandel, 3% syrah, 3% Petite Verdot

APPELLATION: Rockpile

DEGREES BRIX AT HARVEST: 25-26.5

ALCOHOL: 14.7%

CELLAR RECOMMENDATION: Enjoy this wine through 2035

VINIFICATION NOTES: The fruit for the 2023 Rockpile Zinfandel was harvested between October 8 and October 13 from several Dry Creek Valley vineyards, including Rocky Ridge, Westphall, and Jack Jr. for Zinfandel, along with Syrah and Petite Verdot from Lily Hill. Fermentation took place in closed-top tanks, with délestage used during fermentation to build structure and deepen extraction. Following fermentation, the wine was aged for 19 months in French oak barrels, 17% of which were new. The wine was bottled on June 5, 2025.

VINEYARD NOTES: The Rockpile wine region, perched at elevations ranging from 800 to 2,100 feet in the rugged hills of northwestern Sonoma County, is renowned for its unique terroir. The vineyards are located on steep slopes with well-drained, rocky soils that stress the vines and limit yields, resulting in concentrated and intensely flavored grapes. The region benefits from its proximity to Lake Sonoma, which creates a unique microclimate—balancing the warm, sunny days with cooling breezes and nighttime temperature drops.

SENSORY NOTES: The aromatics of the 2023 Rockpile Zinfandel open with black cherry and dark plum layered with notes of tobacco and a rustic touch of earth, along with a hint of tomato leaf. As the wine opens, subtle tones of Luxardo cherry and warm spice begin to emerge. The palate reveals generous layers of dark fruit supported by cocoa and a touch of coffee, while a thread of raspberry and strawberry brings brightness and lift. The finish is broad and polished, with juicy tannins that create a plush, velvety texture and carry the wine through a long, satisfying close.

VINEYARD DETAILS:

CLONE:	St. Peter's Church, DuPratt Mazzoni and Heritage	SOIL TYPE:	Thin, rocky, heavy loam	ELEVATION:	1,200-1,500 feet
VINE SPACING:	6x8	YIELD PER ACRE:	Various	ROOTSTOCK:	St. George
YEAR PLANTED:	1998-2001	TRELLISING STYLE:	VSP	IRRIGATION:	Minimal drip
CASES PRODUCED:	185				