

2018

Block 10

zinfandel

winemaker notes

VARIETY: 90% zinfandel, 10% petite sirah

APPELLATION: Dry Creek Valley

DEGREES BRUX AT HARVEST: 24.7-27.2

P.H: 3.45-3.65

ALCOHOL: 15.1%

CELLAR RECOMMENDATION: Enjoy this wine through 2031

VINIFICATION NOTES: 2018 was a great growing season with relatively early October rains. Vineyard blocks were picked from September 20-October 12. The fruit was sorted and destemmed, with an average of 28 days of time spent on the skins in closed-top tanks with two pumpovers a day until it was pressed at dryness. The wine was barrelled-down into a combination of 92% French, 8% American oak, 33% new, for 16 months in our wine caves.

VINEYARD NOTES: The richest, most decadent of our barrel select series, Block 10 is a celebration of Bella's old vine zinfandel. These storied, ancient vines produce just a handful of clusters each, resulting in ultra-concentrated grapes that make for a mouth-filling showstopper that Robert Parker has rated 96 points and calls "as good as Zinfandel can get ... world-class." Another age-worthy wine from the 2018 vintage, we combined our estate block of hillside old vine fruit with zinfandel from the head-trained vines of renowned Maple Vineyards, the Louvau Vineyard Dry Creek Valley benchland fruit, and the dark, structured fruit from Rockpile.

SENSORY NOTES: Aromatics of rich Luxardo cherries are elevated by dark floral notes and huckleberries. On the palate, wild spicy herbal qualities and toasted cedar are embraced in a wine that both explodes with lively acidity and structured tannins, while also showing a delicate, nuanced side that promises greatness as the structure seamlessly integrates into the wine over time.

VINEYARD DETAILS:

CLONE: Various, heritage,
Florence

SOIL TYPE: Clay, heavy loam

ELEVATION: 220-660 feet

YIELD PER ACRE: 2.5-3 tons

ROOTSTOCK: St. George, 110 R

VINE SPACING: 8x8

TRELLISING STYLE: VSP and head-trained

IRRIGATION: Minimal drip

YEAR PLANTED: 1915-2001

CASES PRODUCED: 300

Bella
VINEYARDS & WINE CAVES