

WILLIAMS SELYEM



2020 Papera Vineyard Zinfandel

WINEMAKER COMMENTS

Fresh blackberry notes with hints of black peppercorn mix with aromas of fennel and star anise in this classic Zinfandel. Currant and red fruit notes further add to the complexity of the aromas. Lavender and purple flowers add a wonderful counterpoint to the brooding nature of this wine. A neighbor to our Saitone Estate vineyard, this region of the Russian River Valley is well known for producing Zinfandels with refreshing acidity and a tannic core. Extract from these lower yielding old vines buffers this structure, gives the palate flesh, and creates balance. Enjoy this wine with a hearty dish like braised short ribs (see Ming Tsai's Blue Ginger recipe).

THE VINEYARD

Papera is an old vine Zinfandel vineyard, located on the eastern side of the Laguna de Santa Rosa in the Russian River Valley appellation. Planted in 1934, the vines are head-trained and primarily dry farmed.

HARVEST 2020

The 2020 growing season started out very dry and bud break was delayed. Early spring rains recharged the soil profile, but periods of extreme cold caused many frost events throughout the Russian River Valley. Late spring yielded ample sunshine and moderate temperatures, and the plants responded very well with excellent canopy growth. The season ended up approximately 12% warmer than average and did not have any heat spikes until August. Harvest started in haste on August 12, ahead of an extreme heat wave. On the night of August 17, the weather changed and there was a rare dry lightning storm that sparked a fire on a hillside in remote west Sonoma County; later named the Walbridge Fire. In the Russian River Valley, it took a number of days for smoke to settle. Based on test results for smoke taint on the grapes, several coastal vineyards were not picked. For the vineyards which were picked, either before the fire or before the smoke settled, the result was concentrated wines with a darker, more brooding complexion. The polish of the tannin, coupled with excellent concentration, should allow for a wide drinking window.

TECHNICAL NOTES

Barrel Description: 29% new, 29% 1 yr., 21% 2 yr., 21% 3+ yr.

Barrel Aged: 13 months

pH: 3.40

TA: 0.63g/100mL

Alc: 15.1%

Released Spring 2022

\$65

