Rock Wall
WINE COMPANY
2015
ROCKPILE
ZINFANDEL

VINEYARD NOTES

These vines live in granitic loam soil with blue clay and have a perfect view of Lake Sonoma. Even though the AVA gained its separate status in 2002, this area has been referred to as Rockpile since the 1850s. Located in Northern Sonoma Countys, at the northwest corner of Dry Creek Valley, the Rockpile AVA encompasses nearly 15,000 acres, of which less than 160 are planted to vineyard. This makes Rockpile one of the smallest AVAs in the United States in terms of acreage planted. Approximately 2,500 of the acres of the Rockpile AVA overlap the Dry Creek Valley viticultural area to the Southeast. Vineyards range in elevation from 800' to nearly 2,100'. There are many geographic and geological features that separate Rockpile from its neighboring appellations. The combination of an elevation requirement, extreme terrain, and a unique climate make the vineyards and resulting wines unlike anything from Sonoma County, California—or the world for that matter.

Production

We picked this unique fruit on October 10th, 2015. We brought it into the winery and crushed it into macro bins on top of whole cluster Petite Sirah bunches, also from Rockpile. After a three-day cold soak, we brought the bins out into the sunshine to warm up. I inoculated the bins with the eponymous yeast, RP15, which is a Rockpile yeast isolate. The sunshine warmed these fermentations up to about 90 degrees Fahrenheit which helped extract the color from the grapes. We pressed the fruit and racked the wine down to 40% new oak.

Winemaker Comments

A beautiful expression of this viticultural area, this wine exudes a sensuous minerality, beautiful spice, anise notes, plum, black currant, maple, and chocolate.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

APPELLATION
Rockpile

COMPOSITION
96% Zinfandel
4% Petite Sirah

ALCOHOL
15.7%

pH
3.81

Residual Sugar:
0g/100ml

TOTAL ACIDITY
0.61g / 100ml

BARRELS
30% New French oak
10% New American oak
60% Neutral oak

CASES PRODUCED
282

RELEASE DATE
April 2017

SUGGESTED RETAIL
$45