



2020 Gamba Family Ranches Zinfandel

Russian River Valley

GROWING SEASON: There is no way to sugarcoat the conditions that pushed vines and vintners to the brink during the 2020 vintage. Between the fires, and COVID-19 safety guidelines, stress levels were at all-time highs for winemakers throughout the state. Our vineyards, which are primarily located farther south in the Russian River Valley, were far enough from the fire that smoke drift was not a significant issue. Now that the wines are safely in bottle, we have been able to reflect on all that has happened to our community during the 2020 season and truly appreciate how lucky we are.

Fortunately for us, the worst we experienced in terms of the fires was hazy air. The hazy air was caused by old smoke blown into the area from faraway wildfires, primarily to the north. Old smoke does not impact grapes in the same manner as fresh, heavily smoky air, which contains the volatile phenolic compounds caused by fires in close proximity to vineyards. Our yields were down due to drought in the early months of the year, as we are dry farmed. Because of the lighter crop, we picked earlier than normal. Earlier picking dates helped us significantly. Wind patterns play a significant role, and that combined with a Russian River Valley marine layer helped our vineyard sites with mitigating smoke. The winds normally blow from the west, pulling clean air from the Pacific Ocean in and pushing away the haze. Our quality was not impacted, and we are very excited by the concentration of flavors in this vintage due to the lighter crop.

THE VINEYARDS:

Sourced from several small, family-owned vineyards in the famed Russian River Valley. The Gamba Family Ranches Zinfandel is a cuvee of several old vine

blocks, dating as far back as 1900, and select smaller, younger vine blocks, all organically grown and dry farmed. "Family Ranches" is our way of paying homage to the early wine grape growing pioneers, and the current hard-working generation of growers. To all that passionately tend their vines, cultivate low yields of exceptional fruit, sometimes in tiny quantities as a labor of love, carefully nurturing young, and meticulously preserving old vine vineyard blocks for our enjoyment now, and for that of future generations.

TASTING NOTES:

The 2020 Family Ranches Zinfandel is an exciting spicy, dark and bold expression of Zinfandel. The wine is finely balanced, with compelling notes of plum, ripe raspberry and spice complemented by notes of well-weathered leather on the nose. This dark garnet hued wine is brilliant in the glass, exhibiting lovely ruby tones. Allspice, cedar and berries emerge in the nose, with a hint of bay leaf. Mouth filling berry fruits burst on the palate followed by an array of brown spices that fill the senses, highlighting raspberry, leather and woody tones. Medium to full in body, the 2020 Family Ranches Zinfandel displays engaging acidity and mild tannins that add structure, dimension and liveliness that invites another sip of this mouth-watering wine. The proportionate, bright notes lift the wine on the palate, accent the freshness of the fruit, and promise an age-worthy wine to be enjoyed with your favorite dishes now, or for an experience with added complexity after three to five years in your cellar.



NOTES: 100% Indigenous yeast fermented Old Vine Zinfandel, 100% Russian River Valley, 80% American oak/ 20% French oak aged 18 mos., from dry farmed, organically grown, hand harvested, double hand-sorted fruit.