



2020 VIP 5-BARREL CUVÉE – RED WINE

Dry Creek Valley



HISTORY

Our VIP Selection 5-Barrel Cuvée represents the most authentic form of small-lot winemaking at Dry Creek Vineyard. Since the first vintage in 2013, this exquisite blend has exemplified our family winery's passion for the noble Bordeaux varietals and the art of blending. Every detail of this cuvée is carefully crafted, from the impeccable vineyard management to the hand punchdowns in the cellar for powerful, yet elegant flavors. The wine is aged in barrels selected for our premier Bordeaux-style wines, which leads to richer color and intensity. The resulting Dry Creek Valley Cabernet Sauvignon is rich and full-bodied with robust tannins and purity of fruit.

GROWING SEASON

Fall and winter rains of the 2020 growing season were slightly below average, but spring rains helped increase total rainfall. We experienced heat waves in mid-August to early September, as well as the Walbridge Fire in August in a remote forested area, and the Glass Fire in September in eastern Sonoma County. Ever focused on quality, our winemaking team evaluated grapes prior to harvesting, with detailed analysis of each vineyard block. As a result, we were proud to produce beautifully structured, complex and delicious wines from the challenging vintage.

WINEMAKER COMMENTS

This exquisite wine begins with luxurious aromas of black currant, black cherry and blueberry. Several minutes of airing reveal intense characteristics of cedar, marzipan and toffee. The palate is full and rich with plum, white pepper, fine leather and hints of *herbes de Provence*. The well-structured complexity and vibrant, pure flavors last from start to finish with sturdy tannins that will soften over time.

BLEND

65% Merlot
28% Cabernet Sauvignon
4% Petit Verdot
3% Malbec

FERMENTATION

9–16 days in fermenters at 82–88°F;
pumped over twice daily

BARREL AGING

21 months in French oak; 39% new oak

ALCOHOL | 14.1%

BRIX | 25.1

PH | 3.67

TA | 6.4 g/L

HARVEST DATES

September 1–October 9, 2020

VINE AGE | 14–30 years

SOILS

Rocky, well-drained

YIELDS

4–5 tons per acre