



2023 OLD VINE ZINFANDEL

Dry Creek Valley

HISTORY

First coined by Dry Creek Vineyard in 1987, the term “Old Vine” has special meaning to our family winery. Although there is no legal definition, we define an old vine vineyard as having vines that average more than 50 years in age. For this bottling of our Old Vine Zinfandel, the vines average 100+ years in age and in some cases are nearly 140 years old! Old Vine Zinfandel vineyards remain the most prized and historic of all plantings in Dry Creek Valley.

GROWING SEASON

In 2023, a wet winter and cooler spring delayed bud break and ripening compared to recent years. These conditions, combined with mild temperatures in summer and a lack of heat spikes, resulted in one of the latest starts to harvest — as well as one of the longest harvests — we have seen in quite some time. Most vineyards were harvested 14–22 days later than in 2022. The weather was ideal for gradual ripening; it was pleasantly warm and sunny throughout harvest, with minor rain that did not impact the vineyards. The grapes had extended hang time, and we were able to pick each block at an optimal level of ripeness. The berries were fully developed, concentrated, flavorful, and balanced with bright acidity.

WINEMAKER COMMENTS

Opening with layered aromas of blackberry, boysenberry, black cherry and plum, this Old Vine Zinfandel unfolds into notes of toasty sage, cocoa powder, toffee and cedar, with hints of nutmeg, cinnamon and damp earth. The palate is rich and structured, revealing flavors of blueberry, dark chocolate and dark fruits, intertwined with graphite, fine leather and chai spice. Full-bodied and concentrated, firm tannins provide depth and balance, leading to a long, lingering finish.

BLEND

80% Zinfandel
20% Petite Sirah

FERMENTATION

3 days cold soak; 12–15 days in fermenters

BARREL AGING

14 months in French, Hungarian and American oak; 28% new oak

ALCOHOL | 14.5%

BRIX | 25.8

PH | 3.61

TA | 6.3g/L

HARVEST DATES

September 21–October 14, 2023

VINE AGE | 100+ years

SOILS

Iron-rich, rocky and gravelly loam

YIELDS

2–3 tons per acre

PREVIOUS VINTAGE:

92	91	91
POINTS	POINTS	POINTS
Wine Spectator	JEB DUNNUCK	Decanter

