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Spring 2021



— THE — BIALE BULLETIN

Preserving the Legacies of Zinfandel & Petite Sirah

Vintage 2019

A thirst-quenching winter led into a moderate growing season, producing bold, rich, and energetic wines.

2019 feels like a decade ago but it offers many fond memories for the winery. The tasting room was buzzing with visitors, we had a sold-out Fall Release party, we could freely jump on a plane to host dinners all over the country, and hosted a Biale cruise in Italy. Surely those days will soon return; and we have new upcoming adventures planned to share with you. Bob and Wendy Biale are gearing up to host the next cruise in France with a new date in 2022. For those of you who have not had the pleasure to sail away with the Biales and team, they take over the whole ship with their closest Zinfandel fans to explore new wine regions and World Heritage Sites. Of course, the boat is fully stocked with Biale wine for the dinners and receptions. Find more details on the 2022 France River Cruise inside!

When you next visit Robert Biale Vineyards, you will find that we took advantage of our doors being temporarily closed to expand the tasting room patio. We look forward to welcoming you to sit back, relax, and sip in all the glory that Napa has to offer in a glass. We are kicking off the year with our 2019 vintage of Zinfandels, Petite Sirahs, red blends, and other small, coveted wines. Bob Biale and Tres Goetting have been trying to hold back their excitement for this vintage as they love the intensity and depth of flavor that comes from it. Not to mention, we are celebrating the 21st official bottling of the Black Chicken Zinfandel. Let's raise a glass to the big 2-1!

Growing Season

The season started out with aquifer-filling rain that did not seem like it was going to stop. Atmospheric river storm events yielded up to 8 inches of rain in one storm! Big rain years like these are always a sigh of relief after the drought years we experience in California. These storms provided ample moisture, which created a healthy cover crop to till into the soil and replenish the nitrogen levels and other nutrients. Composting and cover crops provide organic fertilizers in place of chemical fertilizers. The cover crops that carpet the valley floor are a blend of fava beans, winter wheat and barley grasses, and striking yellow mustard that grows as high as the vine themselves. The hills turn a bright green as if you were driving through Ireland. If you have not experienced Napa Valley in the early spring, it sure does provide the perfect photo backdrop!

The growing season was full of warm, sunny days without extreme heat spikes, the kind of balance Goldilocks would like. This moderate season helped create a wine that has fresh acidity and great finesse to it. August saw a heat wave that really kicked the vines into gear towards ripening. September also saw a few days of temperatures over 100 degrees, which pushed the grapes closer to maturity with balanced sugar and acidity levels. Bob and Raul (Vineyard Foreman) then sounded off the horns and the harvest festivities began! The grapes had abundant hang time, which resulted in great color, structure, and soft tannins. The 2019 crop load was about average for Napa and Sonoma Counties and not as large as the blockbuster year of 2018. Winemaker, Tres Goetting created wines that are enjoyable upon release, but can really benefit from six-plus months of bottle age before opening.



2019 Bedrock Vineyard Zinfandel Sonoma County Zinfandel

The Generals' pivot to wine growing

This historic vineyard site sits in the heart of Sonoma Valley and was founded in 1854 by two Civil War figures—General William Tecumseh Sherman and General “Fightin’ Joe” Hooker. The vineyard was overcome with phylloxera and required a replant in 1888, which was organized by the owner at the time, Senator George Hearst. This grand vineyard currently spreads over 152 acres, but in its heyday, was up to 550 acres. The block reserved for the Biale Bedrock Vineyard Zinfandel comes from the non-irrigated vines dating back to the 1880s.

Fast forward 100 plus years and multiple ownerships, and now the Bedrock Vineyard is in the dutiful hands of Morgan Twain-Peterson and father, Joel Peterson. Joel made his mark in the Zinfandel world with Ravenswood and his current project, Once and Future. His son, Morgan, established his own wine brand, Bedrock Wine Company, where this vineyard is the central focus. Morgan is committed to being the historical preservationist of this land.

The vineyard blocks are made up predominately of Zinfandel, but as was common in the late 1800s, it is intermixed with other varietals. To the untrained eye, all of the vines may look the same, but for Bob and Tres walking the vineyard, they can easily point out the different varietals amongst the crowd. You will find Carignane, Alicante, Petite Sirah, and Mataro, which combined creates a wine with darker fruit characteristics.

Visit Antonio Galloni's [California Vineyard Series: Bedrock Vineyard](#) for further historic detail and for maps on his Vinous website.

Winemaker's Tasting Notes: The 2019 Bedrock Vineyard shows notes of red plum, Bing cherries, blueberries, violets, vanilla, orange rind, and malted chocolate. The wine exhibits a medium body with dusty tannins, which leads to a long, juicy finish. The wine is aged in 100% Burgundian oak barrels for eleven months with 25% of the barrels being new oak. This wine is pleasurable now and will be drinking beautifully over the next three to five years. Only 245 cases produced.

Included in
Shipment 1

CruizIn' with Biale!

A Luxurious 8 Day Burgundy & Provence Wine Cruise, May 15-22, 2022

NEW
DATE

Join Robert Biale Vineyards along the Rhône and Saône rivers through picturesque Provence and Southern France. Enjoy the region's incomparable wine and cuisine, along with Biale wine served at every dinner onboard the S.S. Catherine.

- *Burgundy wine landscapes
- *Lyon peninsula bicycle tour
- *Hermitage vineyards hike & wine tasting
- *Cocktail parties featuring Biale wines
- *Avignon & Tarascon walking tours
- *Wine paired dinners featuring Biale & SO MUCH MORE!



This is booking up quickly! For the itinerary, ship details, and to book, visit www.foodandwinetrails.com or find the link under our Events section at www.biale.com

2019 Black Chicken Napa Valley Zinfandel Ringing in the big 2-1!

Included in
Shipments
1, 2, 3 & 4



The multi-generational farming of Zinfandel has passed through the Biale family since the 1930s, but reaching the major milestone of producing fully legal Black Chicken Zinfandel was a more current day milestone. The very first legal vintage of the storied Black Chicken Zinfandel was not until 1999, believe it or not! The 2019 vintage marks the 21st bottling, and we think that calls for a special celebration. Tune in on May 13th for a country-wide virtual toast, plus more! Find more details on our website under the Events section to join the celebration.

Despite it being the 21st legal bottling of the Black Chicken, this wine has a rich history in the Biale family. It all started with Bob Biale's father, Aldo and Aldo's parents, Pietro and Cristina, at their farm in the Oak Knoll District in Napa. The farm was established growing walnuts, prunes, other produce, and raising a healthy population of white leghorn chickens. The family's income was also supplemented by Aldo's father, Pietro, with his work at the Napa rock quarry. In 1942, when Aldo was just 13 years old, Pietro tragically lost his life in a quarry accident and the farm duties were left to Aldo, an only child, and his mother Cristina (Nonna). Selling the eggs and produce were not quite making ends meet so Aldo had to get creative for some additional income. He soon realized that the Zinfandel fruit on the property that was being sold to local wineries by the ton, could earn more money by selling the end product—wine. Aldo learned how to make wine in the barn from his Uncle Angelo, and thus, Aldo's underground Zinfandel operation began! Visit the redesigned Biale website under the “About” section for Bob Biale's full Black Chicken story and history of the family.

It was not until 1991 when founders Aldo, Bob, Dave, and Al started the fully legal Robert Biale Vineyards and bottles of Biale Zinfandel were able to reach further than local Napans. In 1999 they debuted the first legal Black Chicken Zinfandel. Does anyone still have one of those bottles stashed in the cellar? We would love to know who you are!

Winemaker's Tasting Notes: The 2019 Black Chicken Zinfandel is primarily sourced from the Biale's estate vineyard and the winery vineyard in the Oak Knoll District. This wine is round and plush with a gentle grip of perfectly ripe tannins. It shows a spectrum of red and dark fruits of raspberries, cherries, blackberries, star anise, black and white pepper, and cocoa. It has bright, vivid aromas, fine-grained texture, and subtle, nuanced oak. Age-worthy, compelling, decadent: a beautifully proportioned Napa Valley Zinfandel. The wine was aged in 20% new Burgundian oak barrels for fourteen months. If cellared well, this wine will continue to improve for the next three to five years.

To purchase: www.biale.com | 707.257.7555 | customerservice@biale.com

2018 Basic Black

59% Sonoma County,

41% Napa Valley Proprietary Red Blend

The perfect blend that is just...bold and beautiful!

The Basic Black Proprietary Red is always released one year behind its fellow Zinfandels and Petite Sirahs as Winemaker, Tres Goetting, allows for this wine to age a bit longer in barrel. The wine was lightly pressed to 30% new French oak barrels where it was aged for seventeen months. As a result, this is a wine that is ready to open and enjoy now or can continue to age for another five to seven years.

Included in
Shipment 1

We often mention with the heritage Zinfandel vineyards that they were planted in the 1800s as a field blend. Many were sprinkled with other varietals to contribute different attributes to the wine. Some were to provide a little more acidity, a little more color, or for a little more ripeness. The Basic Black wine is an homage to these "field blends." This landmark 2018 wine is a co-fermented reserve blend of 26% Grenache, 22% Alicante Bouschet, 16% Early Burgundy, 10% Zinfandel, 8% Syrah, 8% Carignan, 6% Tempranillo, and 4% Petite Sirah. With the Basic Black, Tres co-ferments all of the grapes, which is when they are picked at the same time and fermented all together in the same tank to make one, unified wine. This contrasts with wine blends that are put together after each varietal has completed fermentation separately. With the co-fermentation, the different varietals fully integrate with each other, similar to a stew that you let simmer all day, versus for only an hour.

Winemaker's Tasting Notes: The 2018 Basic Black is a complex wine with many layers. It shows a dark fruit profile with aromas of blackberry, sarsaparilla, cocoa, Wild Iris, and earthy undertones. Flavors of dark chocolate and dark fruits are integrated with big mid-palate tannins, which lead to a long age-worthy finish. Only 628 cases produced.



2019 Falleri Vineyard Calistoga, Napa Valley Zinfandel

A small, but mighty gem

Society
Only

The Biale team considers the Falleri Vineyard one of the "backyard gems" that we can thank Bob Biale for happening upon in the early 90s. It is actually one of the first vineyards from which the winery crafted a single-vineyard Zinfandel outside of the Biale estate vineyard. The Falleri Vineyard of head-trained vines is now just about a half-acre in size and sits on the eastern side of Lincoln Avenue in Calistoga, right before you hit the Silverado Trail. For those of you who have had the pleasure of visiting Calistoga, it is the most northern town of Napa Valley, and is worth the drive! It still has an Old-Western feel to it and sits just below Mount Saint Helena. The volcanic soils produce a wine with robust, dusty tannins, but Tres sure knows how to add a refined and elegant touch to this Zinfandel.

Sonya Spencer is the dutiful owner of this vineyard, which has been passed down in her family through multiple generations. Her grandmother, Argentina Falleri, was an Italian immigrant, who established the farm in 1924. The property originally spanned multiple acres and was planted to grapes, pears, and prunes. It had a large population of chickens whose eggs were sold to the local egg company and the family ran the gas station and restaurant across the street. Sonya fondly shares, "There were many different incomes. In case one failed, something else might pay. Nonno used the grapes for his own wine, using the fermenters in the barn. Nonna also had the gas station across the street and a restaurant. Best raviolis you ever tasted. Chicken, of course."

Winemaker's Tasting Notes: The 2019 Falleri Vineyard in the glass shows aromas of fresh strawberries, red cherries, cantaloupe, maple, and cola. With the more moderate growing season of 2019, it has produced a lighter bodied Zinfandel with delicate tannins that build and lead to a long, mouthwatering finish. The wine was aged in 20% new French Oak barrels, which integrate perfectly without overpowering the wine. There are only 37 cases of this wine and it is not one to last long at the winery.

Black Chicken Society Chronicles

These shared moments come from one of our founding Black Chicken Society Members and friends of the winery since the 90s. Robert Biale Vineyards was touched to receive a letter penned by longtime Biale supporters, Lenny and Marina, and we thank them for all of their support over the decades!

"It was 1994. We had a young family and 1-year-old baby, tiresome surgical residency program for one, and a new real estate job for another, elderly parents needing help, and lack of sleep and money. . . We needed a break. As many before and after us, we came to Napa Valley for that break and relaxation and stopped in Calistoga for a serene experience of mineral pools, massages, hot Jacuzzis, and, of course, wine tasting. . . At the CIA, we were surrounded by the Institute's culinary students (future chefs) making food in front of restaurant guests and student-waiters. . . We selected an unknown wine to us called Zinfandel based on the waiter's recommendation. A few minutes later, he came back apologizing that the Zinfandel he suggested was no longer available and suggested to try Biale "Black Chicken" Zin that was "more expensive but actually better" honoring the same price. After a few sips, we looked at each other. We loved it!

Next morning, we decided to include the "Biale winery" to our list but could not find it on any Napa map we could get a hold of. Marina started to search the actual bottle, and, Voilà!, she found a phone number. The chances? - slim at best that someone would answer the phone. The reality was different. The phone was answered by . . . Robert. What did we know? "Call me Bob", he said. We explained that we had a dinner last night at CIA and tried this wine and liked it very much and, by the way, "could we drive right now to your winery and buy a couple of bottles". "Sure", Bob replied. "I'll be waiting for you." "Such a nice guy, probably a host of the tasting room. Let's go there!", Marina said with enthusiasm. We cancelled our reservation at the different winery and thirty minutes later we were in front of the old country house, a farm really, with no tasting room to speak of, and a person walking towards us smiling. That is how we met Bob. He walked toward our car and offered a friendly hand shake."

To read about what came next and their full story, visit our Biale Blog on the website!





Vineyard Foreman Raul circa 2004. You could say he is one of Robert Biale Vineyards founding farmers at the winery.

2019 Founding Farmers Napa Valley Zinfandel

Included in
Shipment 2

Showcasing micro-climates

The Founding Farmers is one of our Zinfandel blends that allows Winemaker Tres Goetting, to show off the best attributes of each of the vineyards used in the blend. It is predominantly made up of Zinfandel from some of the oldest vineyard estate properties in St. Helena. Each have their own, very unique characteristics, but when blended together, it brings out the best of all the micro-climates. The Founding Farmers was crafted in honor of the founding farmers that pioneered and settled these lands in the 1800s, such as the ones that established the vineyards making up in this wine.

Our very own Wine Educator, Tom Skinner, holds this wine close as he finds it makes the perfect “every day” wine. For those of you who have had Tom host you on the Biale back porch, his famous 4 Ps saying of the Founding Farmers is the perfect summary to this wine. Tom shares, “Pull the bottle, pop the cork, pour the glass, and plop yourself in the recliner! The reason I enjoy it so much is because it is a universally drinkable Zinfandel that is easily consumed with, or without food. These great vineyards come together to unleash soft, yet noble flavor profiles that are truly distinctive of the combined sources.” You can just picture Tom in his moment of bliss with Founding Farmers Zinfandel. We highly recommend trying the 4 Ps for yourself!

Winemaker’s Tasting Notes: The 2019 Founding Farmers is bursting with aromas of exotic fruits. These mature, old vines in St. Helena produce a Zinfandel that has notes of dark cherry, strawberry, mango, pineapple, raspberry, red licorice, and Italian herbs. The wine is light bodied and very approachable. It has a fresh and clean entry with subtle tannins that make this wine well balanced. The finish is long and has a juicy, mouthwatering character. The wine was aged in 25% new French oak barrels for eleven months. Only 325 cases produced.

2019 Old Kraft Vineyard St. Helena, Napa Valley Zinfandel Preservation at its finest

Included in
Shipment 2

The Old Kraft Vineyard is one of the vineyards we have a long-standing relationship with in St. Helena, with the other being the Varozza Vineyard. They are just a mile or so from each other, but the flavor profiles between the two would make you think they are worlds apart. Well, that may be a bit extreme, but you get the point. The flavors of the Zinfandel from the Old Kraft Vineyard are bright with fresh acidity and fruit characteristics. We like to say that it is similar to the fresh cranberry relish made for Thanksgiving dinner. Who would have thought that 100+ year old vines are still producing such a vibrant wine!

Bill and Margie Hart are the proud owners of this picturesque property on the western side of the quaint town of St. Helena. It is just below the Mayacamas Mountain range with Spring Mountain soaring above. The original head-trained vines were planted in 1891 by German immigrant winemaker, Franz Kraft. Mr. Kraft’s winery is now known as the highly acclaimed Spottswoode Winery that sits just south of the Old Kraft Vineyard. Bill and Margie have been the stewards for the past 20 years now and took on the role of bringing back this property to its original glory. There is one section left of the original vines, but many of the original vines had to be replanted in the early 2000s. When the Harts decided to revitalize the vineyard, they enlisted the help of the local Zin expert, Bob Biale. The hard work sure has paid off and the Harts have saved a little slice of Napa Valley history. We applaud them for doing so and are happy that we can continue to enjoy the fruits of their labor.

Winemaker’s Tasting Notes: This 2019 Old Kraft Zinfandel is a beautiful representation of true old vine Zinfandel from the heart of Napa Valley. This wine explodes with bold, ripe fruit, with concentrated aromas and flavors of blackberry, black cherry, dark plum, mocha, and purple flowers. It has nice weight on the palate and gentle tannins with toasty barrel spices that build to a lengthy finish. This wine was aged for eleven months in 24% new French oak barrels. Only 387 cases were produced.



2019 R.W. Moore Vineyard Coombsville, Napa Valley Zinfandel

The classic red barn

Having the opportunity to work with different growers spanning Napa to Sonoma Counties and beyond is not something we take for granted. They are not just business associates, but close friends of the winery. It is important to showcase the hard work that they put into the vineyards, day in and day out, to help us produce such quality wines. Bill Moore is one of the cast of characters that the winery holds close. Bill was a local orthodontist in Napa for many years until he jumped headfirst into growing grapes when he purchased his little slice of heaven on the eastern side of town in the Coombsville AVA. This vineyard is hard to miss with the iconic red barn that looks over the vineyard. We are thankful for Bill to have dedicated himself to preserving the original Zinfandel vines versus re-planting to a different grape varietal that may have yielded a higher remuneration for him.

These original vines were planted in 1905 under the ownership of a seafarer by the name of Pleasant Ashley Stevens. This vineyard has historical significance and is especially important to the wine industry now as its genetic heritage is being carefully preserved and propagated through the U.C. Davis Heritage Vineyard project. The Zinfandel clones in the project were collected in the 1990s from historic old vine plantings in geographically diverse regions throughout California. In other words, the genetic material from these historic vines is being saved for future generations of winemakers. These vines and the wine that is produced from them have proven to showcase sought-after Zinfandel qualities. As a result, Bob Biale has been using this clone when planting new Zinfandel vineyards. Long live the R.W. Moore Zinfandel!

Winemaker's Tasting Notes: This 2019 R.W. Moore Vineyard Zinfandel is a full-bodied entry with rich and savory aromas. It showcases flavor profiles of blackberries, pink taffy, blueberries, and soy. This wine is nicely balanced with deep mid-palate fruit, fresh acidity, and dusty tannins. This is a very age-worthy wine which will continue to improve for the next five to seven years. The wine was aged for eleven months in 100% French oak barrels of which 25% were new oak and the remainder were what is called "neutral oak". 706 cases were produced.

Included in
Shipment 1



In Memory of Amigo Bob Cantisano



Photo from amigoboborganics.com

The Biale winery has the privilege of working with heritage vineyards, but we have also had the privilege of working with legendary people who contribute to making the vineyards sustainable and healthy. Amigo Bob Cantisano was one of the legends that Bob Biale enjoyed working with since 2008. Bob Biale connected with him through a friend Jon-Mark Chappellet, but had heard of Amigo Bob and his knowledge for quite a while before that.

Bob Biale was drawn to Amigo Bob for organic vineyard consulting for various reasons. Bob shares, "He had been doing this long enough in a wide variety of fruits and areas that there was very little he had not seen or could not deal with when confronted with a problem. I liked that he always wanted to visit the vineyards, not just talk about them. Plus, he appreciated tasting the wines from these same vineyards he consulted with us on, giving us his unique view on the wine. He was a good teacher in his field and could relay his information in an easy-to-understand manner. We'll miss him dearly."

Amigo Bob's legacy reaches far beyond the vineyards and has been shaping farming practices since the 1960s. He was a ninth generation Californian who helped establish the California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF) Organization. He was one of the key influencers of organic and sustainable farming. With his firm Organic Ag Advisors, he was a pioneer in organic agriculture for the nation. He was a pivotal player in working with conventional farmers and assisting them with implementing organic practices, along with enhancing the organic practices of already established organic fields. Beyond advising organic farming, he was crucial to saving heritage varieties of olives, apples, nut trees, and so much more.

The Biale team fondly remembers him walking us out to the vineyard for an up-close view of the intricacies of cover crops down to the grubs and root systems that are beneath the surface. Amigo Bob was a person that you just soaked up a wealth of information from. He was our organic farming guru and his presence can be felt when looking at our vineyard in full bloom with the mustard, fava beans, and grasses. He was truly a one-of-a-kind person and we will continue his legacy with our growing practices here at the winery. The agricultural community lost a phenomenal asset in 2020 with Amigo Bob moving on to his next life, but we look forward to the next generation stepping up to fill Amigo Bob's shoes, or you may say, sandals.

Information sourced from <https://www.nytimes.com/1996/03/10/magazine/amigo-cantisano-s-organic-dream.html> and you will find a more in depth writing of Amigo Bob Cantisano here.



Amigo teaching the Biale team



A healthy cover crop

2019 Valsecchi Vineyard

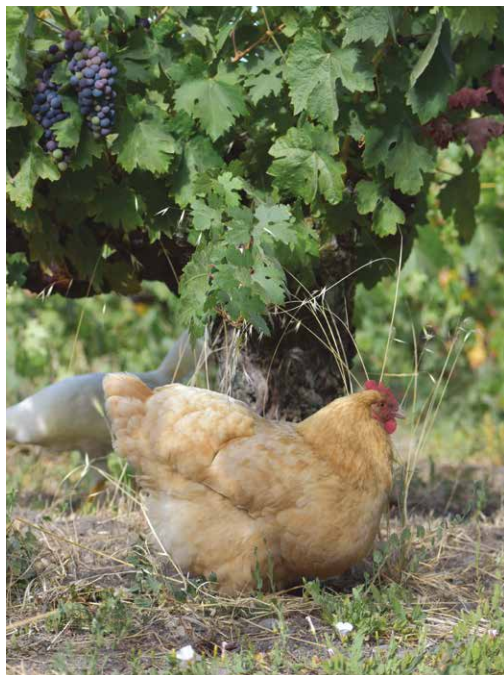
Carneros, Sonoma County Zinfandel

If wine were a Starburst™ flavor

As you drive from Napa to Sonoma, the Valsecchi Vineyard is about one acre in size, set just off the main road before you reach the Sonoma square. The vineyard is named after John Valsecchi, who was a retired dairy farmer that purchased the fertile land in 1900 and planted it to Zinfandel. With a Zinfandel as unique as this one, we are grateful that the family has kept the original vines instead of planting to the more well-known Carneros grape varieties—Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. When enjoying a glass of Valsecchi Vineyard Zinfandel, you should know that it is some of the only Zinfandel planted in that AVA—truly a rare gem! We can thank John Valsecchi's grandson, Ron Mick, for continuing to farm the family vineyard.

Society
Only

The Biale team tries its best not to pick favorites, but of course, we all have a Biale wine that we may hold a little closer. If someone asks what Pat Jeffries' favorite Biale wine is, hands down, we can confidently say it is the Valsecchi Vineyard Zinfandel. For those of you who have not met Pat, he can be found overseeing the Tasting Room. He was born and raised in Napa and sure has stories to tell of the Napa Valley. Be sure to say hello next time you visit the winery! Pat exclaims, "This wine has character. It is a wine made from 100-year-old vines grown in an area surrounded by Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, which makes it an outlier. I will not go into specific flavor profiles, that is for you to discern for yourself. What I will say, is that the Valsecchi sings to me as it dances about my palate, hitting every note on key and every dance step in perfect



time and rhythm. Valsecchi lingers about, hanging on like a long hug before saying goodbye to a loved one. Afterwards my senses crave another taste, like an audience emphatically hoping for an encore and the encore performance never disappoints. I could go on, but I won't, I have Valsecchi in my glass, and I must pay it some attention."

Winemaker's Tasting Notes: This is the most Pinot Noir-like Zinfandel we make. It is light bodied with bright, fresh red fruit profiles of Bing cherry, strawberry preserves, red plum, cranberry, and lychee. It has a punch of acidity, which makes for a long mouthwatering finish and guarantees long ageing potential. It is aged in 25% new French oak barrels for fourteen months. Only 106 cases produced.

2019 Nonna's Vineyard

Oak Knoll District of Napa Valley Sangiovese

Pasta✓ Sauce✓ Sangiovese✓ Perfection✓

Society
Only



Nonna picking walnuts

Wendy Biale clearly remembers the day when the block was grafted over to Sangiovese at the Biale ranch. It was the day she waddled out to the vineyard to tell Bob to ready himself, because they were having a baby that day! Their daughter Michela arrived that evening. This plot of vineyard is on the very far backside of the property, not exactly in a location that you can call to from the back porch...It is just over the bridge crossing the Salvador Creek and is like its own little island, merely an acre in size. Half the battle to produce wine from this vineyard is keeping pesky beavers away from it!

Bob's Nonna, Cristina, was an immigrant from Northern Italy who landed in Napa and married Pietro Biale. As the town of Napa was expanding closer and closer to the Biale ranch, it was

her savvy business sense and land trades that secured the property. The grafting of the Sangiovese was on a bit of a whim from Aldo, but he knew that his mother's hard work and perseverance earned her a small block named in her honor.

Winemaker's Tasting Notes: The 2019 Nonna's Sangiovese has aromas and flavors of dusty strawberries, Bing cherries, rhubarb, red plum, along with hints of chamomile and savory spice. It is considered light to medium bodied with a clean and bright entry. This wine has many of the traditional qualities of an Italian Sangiovese with the rustic fruit qualities, bright acidity, and touch of dusty tannins. It truly does pair well with all the Italian classics. The wine was aged in 25% new French oak barrels for sixteen months. Only 85 cases produced.

2019 Varozza Vineyard

St. Helena, Napa Valley Zinfandel

Five generations dedicated to the vines

Included in
Shipment 2

If you travel about one mile from the Old Kraft Vineyard towards the center of St. Helena (Napa Valley's hourglass pinch), you will land at the Varozza Vineyard. Despite being only one mile apart, the wines that are produced from each of these vineyard sites are anything but the same due to the different soil compositions. The Varozza Vineyard produces a wine with less acidity due to a higher pH, compared to the Old Kraft Vineyard, which has a lower pH (higher acidity). The Varozza wine is soft and luscious like the plush layer of soil that the vines grow in.

The foundation of Napa Valley was created by hard-working families; and the story behind this vineyard is the proof in the pudding. The Varozza Vineyard has been in the Varozza family since the early 1900s, spanning over five generations. It all started with James Varozza, a Swiss immigrant, who came to California in the late 1800s to raise a family and work in the local vineyards. His son, Joseph, became a blacksmith, but after an accident, retired from blacksmithing and acquired what is now the Varozza Vineyard farm on Pratt Avenue. Joseph was able to continue to grow the grapes and make wine throughout prohibition by selling it to the local church. After WWII, Joseph's son, Harold, returned from the war to purchase the property from his family and to continue farming the vineyard and selling the grapes to local wineries. Harold's son, Jack and his wife, Dianne Varozza, are the current generation tending to the ranch along with their son, Jason, making it the fifth generation on the property!



The original, iconic white barn on the property dates to 1885, built by the original property owner, Emil Zange. Jack and Dianne Varozza have dedicated their resources to restoring the original barn and operating it as a working winery along with holding private tastings for their own label, Varozza Vineyards. It is truly a special multi-generational property that is worth a visit.

Winemaker's Tasting Notes: The 2019 Varozza Vineyard Zinfandel shows aromatics of dark plum, black cherry, caramel, graham cracker, dried herbs, and root beer. It has a plush and creamy entry with nice viscosity and weight. It has a well-structured mid-palate with layered tannins that build to a long finish. This is a Zinfandel that is drinking beautifully right out of the gate. It is aged in 25% new French oak barrels for eleven months. Only 411 cases produced.

To purchase: www.biale.com | 707.257.7555 | customerservice@biale.com

Biale Vineyards Spring 2021 Wine Offering

	Price	Society Price		Price	Society Price		Price	Society Price
2019 Bedrock Vineyard Zinfandel	\$55	\$50	2019 R. W. Moore Vineyard Zinfandel	\$62	\$56	2020 Rosato	\$35	\$32
2019 Black Chicken Zinfandel	\$50	\$44	2019 Valsecchi Vineyard Zinfandel		\$58	2019 Royal Punishers Petite Sirah *May	\$49	\$44
2019 Falleri Vineyard Zinfandel	\$58	\$52	2019 Varozza Vineyard Zinfandel	\$56	\$51	2020 Clementina White Wine *May	\$45	\$41
2019 Founding Farmers Zinfandel	\$44	\$40	2019 Nonna's Sangiovese	\$52	\$47	Please inquire about the availability of our large format bottles.		
2019 Old Kraft Vineyard Zinfandel	\$56	\$51	2018 Basic Black Proprietary Red	\$52	\$47			

How to order: Give us a call at (707) 257-7555, email customerservice@biale.com, or online at www.biale.com. Orders containing 6 bottles or more of current wines ship ground for \$29 flat rate. Website code: SHIP29

2020 Rosato California dry Rosé of Sangiovese Sunshine in a glass

This refreshing Rosé comes and goes from the winery lickety-split! Do not wait until the weather warms up to get your hands on this thirst-quenching treat or it will be gone. The primary grape varietal in this wine is Sangiovese and then, Winemaker Tres Goetting adds just a hint of pressed Zinfandel juice to add a little extra color for the perfect pink hue. The wine is aged in 100% stainless steel, making it a perfectly crisp Rosé. All you need to do is picture yourself on a porch, poolside, or on a picnic. Pair that with a glass of the Rosato and it is a match made in heaven. After a year such as this, you deserve to treat yourself.

Winemaker's Tasting Notes: The 2020 Rosato showcases aromas and flavors of guava, watermelon, cherry blossoms, key lime, lychee, and wet stone. There is a pleasing tartness and a savory gentle touch of red wine tannins. Best to drink in its first year of release as these bottles go fast as the season kicks in! This wine can age for a couple of years as well if you so please. Optimum serving temperature: 44-56°F.



2019 Royal Punishers Petite Sirah Napa Valley Petite Sirah It is okay to show your soft side

Petite Sirah was created in the 1800s with the hybridization of grapes Syrah and Peloursin and soon came to the USA in the 1880s. It was once a widely planted variety in Napa Valley, but saw a downward trend over the past 50 years. Petite Sirah has been gaining loyal followers over the past decade: Syrahptimists, if you will. It is refreshing to watch the new Petite Sirah producers hitting the market and showcasing this varietal. Known for its dark color, firm structure, and deep blue and black fruit flavors, it is perfectly suited to Napa Valley's moderate and dry growing season. Contrary to some beliefs about Petite Sirah being too tannic and powerful Winemaker, Tres Goetting, brings out the best characteristics of Petite Sirah by crafting the Royal Punishers. Year after year, this wine showcases firm, yet refined tannins, broad mid-palate texture, and balanced acidity.

Included in
Shipment 3

2020 Clementina White Wine Oak Knoll District of Napa Valley

In Italy, it is believed that Greco has its origins in ancient Greece. However, it is identified as one of the great white grapes of Tufo, Campania in Southern Italy. Greco is not an officially recognized variety in the USA, but that did not stop Bob from planting this delightful grape. There was one acre at the winery planted to Petite Sirah, but it was deemed that the soil in that block was better suited for a white grape variety. With the delightfully arduous task of sampling many white varietals, the Biale team settled on Greco. This white wine has firm acidity, stone fruit, lychee, and a medium-bodied mouthfeel.

Stay tuned for the full release and tasting notes later this spring. A waitlist is available for when these two wines are officially released. Please email customerservice@biale.com to be added to the list.



The Robert Biale Vineyard Visitor Experiences

Relax amongst the vineyards and savor the Napa Valley's natural splendor. Enjoy an in-depth tasting and take advantage of the opportunity to purchase rare and iconic wines that are applauded by wine professionals and represent over a century of California winemaking history.

The Valley Vista. This relaxed and leisurely seated tasting experience among the vineyards on the winery's back porch offers one of the great views of California wine country and a tasting selection like no other. Biale's affable Wine Educators guide you through a personalized overview of Napa Valley, historic vineyards, family farming history, and the fine points of appreciating world class Zinfandel, Petite Sirah, and Biale's rare blends.

The Past, Present, and Future. An elevated first-hand experience for those looking to do a side-by-side comparison of library vintages, current vintages, and an out of barrel taste of what is to come. Discuss the fine points and advantages of cellaring and the potential of laying down Biale wines in your personal cellar.

The Virtual Valley Vista. An opportunity to gather with your team, your friends, or your clients to bring a slice of Napa Valley to your home. One of our wine educators here at Biale will guide you through this interactive event to hear about the rich history of the winery, learn about the Napa Valley growing region, and taste our handcrafted boutique wines. Virtual tasting wine pack offerings can be found in the purchase section of the website under "additional offers".

Reservations are required for all tasting experiences. To book reservations, please call the winery: (707) 257-7555 ex 202, email: tastingroom@biale.com or book online: <https://www.biale.com/visit/>.



Lynda Carol Photography

To purchase: www.biale.com | 707.257.7555 | customerservice@biale.com



Thank You! Thank you! Thank you!

We can't thank all of our Black Chicken Society members and fans enough for all your ongoing support and enthusiasm. Your shared moments and stories have brought us great joy and we look forward to many more years with you. We raise a glass to you!

Zincerely,
Bob Biale and the Biale Team



Are You A Member of The Black Chicken Society?

It is because of our Black Chicken Society members that Robert Biale Vineyards is able to continue the long-standing mission of preserving historic Zinfandel vines and carrying on with the family legacy. Our members receive first-access to these limited wines with multiple club level offerings to best suite your needs.

Black Chicken Society 2021 Schedule

Level 1, 2, & 3 Allocations

Shipment 1

Bill: February 22 Arrival: March 2-5
Pick Up Wine: February 22-May 16
2019 Black Chicken Zinfandel
2019 R.W. Moore Vineyard Zinfandel
2019 Bedrock Vineyard Zinfandel
2018 Basic Black Proprietary Red
*Level 2 & 3 members will receive: 2019 Valsecchi Vineyard Zinfandel in place of the 2019 Bedrock Zinfandel

Shipment 2

Bill: April 19 Arrival: April 27-30
Pick Up Wine: April 19-May 16
2019 Black Chicken Zinfandel
2019 Founding Farmers Zinfandel
2019 Varozza Vineyard Zinfandel
2019 Old Kraft Vineyard Zinfandel

Custom Club Allocations

SPRING SHIPMENT

Custom Ordering Begins: March 2
Custom Ordering Deadline: March 22

FALL SHIPMENT

Custom Ordering Begins: Aug. 24
Custom Ordering Deadline: Sept. 21

Shipment 3

Bill: Sept. 13 Arrival: Sept. 21-24
Pick Up Wine: Sept. 13-Dec. 7
2019 Black Chicken Zinfandel
2019 Stagecoach Vineyard® Zinfandel
2018 Southern Trail Zinfandel
2019 Royal Punishers Petite Sirah

Shipment 4

Bill: Nov. 1 Arrival: Nov. 9-12
Pick Up Wine: Nov. 1-Dec. 5
2019 Black Chicken Zinfandel
2019 Aldo's Vineyard Zinfandel
2019 Grande Vineyard Zinfandel
2019 Pagani Ranch Zinfandel
Shipments may be customized or added to by directly requesting to the Wine Club Team before billing.

Holiday Magnum Club

Bill: Nov. 1 Arrival: Nov. 9-12
Each year our Winemaker, Tres Goetting, puts together a unique reserve blend that comes in a special holiday magnum and arrives at your home in time to grace your holiday table. To Join: Must be a member of Black Chicken Society Level 1,2,3, or Custom Club).

Virtual Events

March 26

Spring Release Boot Camp

Time: 3:30 PM PST via Facebook Live

May 7

Clementina Release Party

Time: 3:30 PM PST via Facebook Live

May 13

21st Birthday of Black Chicken Zinfandel

Time: 4:30 PM PST via Zoom & Facebook Live

Join us for the largest virtual toast and celebration of this iconic Zinfandel!

August 27

Fall Release Boot Camp

Time: 3:30 PM PST via Facebook Live

December 10

First Grade Release Party

Time: 5 PM PST via Facebook Live

Winery Events

April 9

Spring Release After Hours Tasting

Time: 5-7 PM PST

Price: \$55 | Club \$35 | 5+ year members complimentary for 2

April 30

Spring Release After Hours Tasting

Time: 5-7 PM PST

Price: \$55 | Club \$35 | 5+ year members complimentary for 2

May 14

Black Chicken Society Members Pick Up Market

Time: 3-6 PM PST

June 17

Black Chicken Society Members After Hours Tasting

Time: 5-7 PM PST

Price: Club \$35 | 5+ year members complimentary for 2

June 18

Black Chicken Society Members After Hours Tasting

Time: 5-7 PM PST

Price: Club \$35 | 5+ year members complimentary for 2

August 20

Fall Release After Hours Tasting

Time: 5-7 PM PST

Price: \$55 | Club \$35 | 5+ year members complimentary for 2

September 3

Fall Release After Hours Tasting

Time: 5-7 PM PST

Price: \$55 | Club \$35 | 5+ year members complimentary for 2

October 8

Fall Release After Hours Tasting

Time: 5-7 PM PST

Price: \$55 | Club \$35 | 5+ year members complimentary for 2

May 15-22, 2022

8 Day Biale Cruise in Burgundy & Provence

Join Bob & Wendy Biale along with members of the Biale team for an adventure on the Rhône and Saône Rivers aboard Uniworld's S.S. Catherine ship.

**Due to the on-going pandemic, event dates are subject to change and event announcements may be added throughout the year. All winery events require reservations and are on a first come, first serve basis. To ensure all members have equal access, please only reserve one date per tasting series. Visit the Events section www.biale.com for a full list of event details and for reservations.*

Deadline for pick up members for spring shipments: May 16 | Deadline for pick up members for fall shipments: December 5
Wine not picked up by those dates will be shipped and shipping fees will apply.

To join the Black Chicken Society or for membership details and questions, please contact the Wine Club Team.
Phone: (707) 257-7555 Email: wineclub@biale.com

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