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2018 Gaudi Carli

Calistoga Appellation, Napa Valley Barbera

CLASSIC CARLI

Next to Petite Sirah, Barbera may be the most underappreciated grape in California. In Napa Valley, where the “savage grape” Cabernet Sauvignon is king, Barbera is practically non-existent. Maybe that’s why we love the rare Gaudi Carli vineyard so much – we have a big soft spot for stray dogs. This one happens to have a huge heart plus pedigree. Barbera is one of the classic varieties of northern Italy and produces some of our favorite wines to serve with meals.

At Gaudi Carli in Calistoga, we are dealing with a little patch of the only old vine Barbera we know of in Napa Valley and it is loaded with character. Who we have to thank for sticking with this 80 year-old vineyard is the Torrigino family, who together over decades, have kept the scant last acre of Gaudi Carli’s original vineyards going. Just amazing it’s still there...

The 2018 Gaudi Carli Barbera is a very food friendly wine that will serve for several years to come. It pairs well with hearty soups, stews, grilled sausages, and pizzas with sun dried tomatoes.

Vintage Notes: Seamless season of heavenly hangtime and phenomenal phenolic development. February saw abundant rains, followed by lots of filtered light in spring and early summer. Both bud break and flowering occurred a bit late, but under ideal weather conditions, creating plentiful and even fruit set. Summer brought generous sun during the day and cooler marine influences, virtually uninterrupted by major heat spikes. The relatively mild summer followed by extended fall sunshine and moderate heat created near-ideal conditions for winemakers to allow their fruit to accumulate flavor complexity with gradual increases in sugar levels. Volume is looking great, up 20-30% increase over average crop quantity.

Harvest Dates: 9-29-18

Winemaking: The fruit was hand-sorted first in the field then again at the winery. Open-top bin fermentation and punched down by hand two to three times per day. Pressed to Burgundian oak – 18% new. Aged 14 months

Alcohol: 14.5%

Winemaker’s Tasting Notes:

Rustic red fruits fill the nose along with Bing cherry, rhubarb, plum, Iris, cinnamon, and root beer. Medium light bodied with fleshy tannins lend way to some, earthier Barbera flavors of cassis, blackberry and porcini mushroom. This Old-World style wine has a nice balance of fresh acidity which makes for a mouthwatering finish. Only 45 cases produced.