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2019 VALSECCHI VINEYARD

Carneros District Sonoma Valley Zinfandel

This vineyard is one of Biale's little gems - a beautiful Zinfandel from a small inconspicuous site just outside the town of Sonoma, off Napa Road. Technically this vineyard lies just within the northern boundary of the Carneros Appellation which makes it very rare indeed – one of only a few Zinfandels and certainly the oldest existing vineyard within this AVA (American Viticultural Appellation).

Carneros (meaning “rams” in Spanish), lying close to San Pablo Bay, has a particularly cool, breezy and foggy maritime climate with soils that were formed millennia ago when it once was submerged by an inland sea. Occasionally fossilized sea shells can be found among the rocks and soils of Carneros vineyards. Easy access for barges and boats and excellent agricultural conditions made Carneros a prime source for all types of produce and meats that were supplied to early San Francisco – grapes being among the most in demand.

The Valsecchi Vineyard is named for John Valsecchi, who after a life of dairy work, retired to farm the old Zinfandel vineyard near Sonoma he had purchased that was planted around 1900. Under the prideful and loving care of Valsecchi's grandson, Ron Mick, the vineyard has survived with its ton or two of grapes going to Biale since 1995. Hidden behind a farmhouse, you would never notice this patch of twisting and weathered old vines. Now - Valsecchi in the glass -you would sit up and take notice!

Vintage Notes: A long, warm summer and mild finish to the season. The beginning of the 2019 growing season was defined by copious rainfall and late soil moisture. The long, warm summer saw very few extreme heat events, with foggy mornings setting the stage for vibrant and expressive wines. The long, relatively mild finish to the season, not without its moments of unpredictability, helped to preserve freshness and finesse in the fruit with abundant hang time teasing out great color, structure and soft tannins. Volume is looking to be about average to a little less than average. All in all, exceptional fruit with bright acidity and ample texture promises an amazing vintage.

Harvest Dates: 9-22-19

Winemaking: The fruit was hand-sorted first in the field then again at the winery. Open-top fermentation and punched down three times per day. Pressed to Burgundian oak – 25% new. Aged 14 months.

Alcohol: 14.5%

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.

Only 106 cases produced.