

— R O B E R T —  
**BIALE**  
V I N E Y A R D S

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## **2020 Monte Rosso®**

### **Zinfandel, Moon Mountain, Sonoma County**

There's nothing quite like it. Huge, twisting, gnarled, mountain-rooted Zinfandel vines with a view of Sonoma Valley, San Francisco, and the Bay Area - thriving plants that are still producing thrilling wines since their origins in the 1880's. Even the most jaded wine veterans are struck with awe upon seeing the great Monte Rosso Vineyard.

Louis M. Martini purchased this lofty site on the Sonoma side of the Mayacamas shortly after Prohibition. Labeled originally as "California Mountain" Zinfandel, it became the source for many compelling, age worthy, and underrated bottlings under Martini's namesake label. The Martini Winery has shared some of the prized fruit over the decades with several Zinfandel winemakers, and the Monte Rosso Vineyard® has gone on to achieve legend status on the Martini label and on other labels, including Biale.

At an average of about 1500' elevation, with its reddish volcanic soils filled with rock and iron, Monte Rosso speaks clearly and firmly as to its sense of place. Sometimes wine newbies wonder what all the fuss is about in red wines, but this is one of those examples of fine red so filled with tantalizing character that you can't help but sit back, sip slowly, and ponder the power of the site. Try visualizing those pioneering laborers digging into a remote Californian mountainside simply in order to grow delicious wine. To Biale, Monte Rosso is a national treasure and we are proud to be one of the fortunate winemakers to craft a classic from this rare repository of some of America's most historic grapevines. Long live Monte Rosso®!

**Vintage Notes:** Conditions were ideal at the start of 2020 with mild temperatures that led to evenly developed clusters. The low winter rainfall resulted in small berries with concentrated flavor. Following an early budbreak and warm summer, harvest kicked off at the beginning of August. Although challenged by two wildfires during the harvest, most wineries decided to make only the best wines of their small lots, and Biale did just that. We hope that you will enjoy these wines that express the promise anticipated by the conditions of the early growing season.

**Harvest Dates:** 8-24-20

**Alcohol:** 14.9%

**Winemaking:** Our winemaking begins in the vineyard with meticulous attention to detail and close monitoring by Bob Biale and winemaker David Natali. Fruit is hand-harvested, sorted in the field, and sorted again at the winery. Destemmed, the grapes are then fermented in open top tanks with punch downs gently carried out two to three times per day. Pressed, the wine undergoes malolactic fermentation in 100% French oak barrels, of which 25% is new. Aged for 16 months in barrel. Only 269 cases produced.

**Winemaker's Tasting Notes:** Blackberry, licorice, dried herbs, orange peel with pomegranate high tones and, displaying its mountain pedigree, chapparral undertones on the nose. Mouthwatering entry with bramble fruit compote and grapefruit notes on the palate. It finishes with supple tannins and extraordinary length.