



4038 Big Ranch Rd., Napa, CA 94558

Ph: 707.257.7555 | www.biale.com

2020 Old Kraft Vineyard

St. Helena Appellation Zinfandel

It's a gratifying feeling knowing we helped to save a piece of Napa Valley vineyard history.

Franz Kraft was a prominent winemaker in the earliest days of St. Helena in the period around 1860. His vineyards and winery were on the west side of town on Madrona Avenue. The iconic old native stone winery is now a cellar for the acclaimed Spottswoode Winery and most of the original old vineyards have been replaced – except for an old patch to the north of the winery that is part of the family estate of Bill and Margie Hart.

Instead of tearing out the original Zinfandel and Petite Sirah vines that were planted in the 1890s, Bill and Margie decided to go with the recommendation of vineyard guru Bill Pease who saw potential in the craggy, twisted plants. Bob Biale was brought in to assist and a project ensued to revitalize this rare swath of winemaking history. Bill and Margie agreed to sell all the fruit to Biale with the hope of one day being able to vinify and vineyard-designate this historic wine. Starting in 2002, drainage, irrigation, soil amendments, pruning, and inter-planting were utilized to bring the vineyard back to productive health, and in 2006 the wine had progressed to the point of being worthy as a new special bottling among the series of Biale Zinfandels. A number of Petite Sirah vines were also part of the vineyard and wine from those grapes has the potential to become a Biale bottling as well.

Vintage Notes: Grape Growers recall that conditions were ideal at the start of 2020, with mild temperatures that led to evenly developed clusters. The low winter rainfall resulted in smaller berries with concentrated flavors. Following an early budbreak and warm summer, harvest kicked off at the beginning of August. Although challenged by the two fires during the harvest season, ultimately, most wineries decided to make only their best wines at limited production. This is exactly what Biale did and we know that you will enjoy these wines that express the promise anticipated by the ideal conditions of the early growing season.

Harvest Dates: 8-27-20

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 – 24% new. Aged 11 months.

Alcohol: 14.8%

Winemaker's Tasting Notes: This wine is a beautiful representation of old vine Zinfandel from Napa Valley with concentrated bold, ripe fruit aromas of blackberry, black cherry, dark plum, mocha, and purple flowers. It has a nice weight on the palate with gentle tannins and toasted barrel notes that build to a long finish. 304 cases were produced.