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2020 PAGANI RANCH

Sonoma County Zinfandel

SONOMA'S OLD VINE CLASSIC

Dino Amantite and his mother, Norma Pagani Amantite, are the devoted caretakers of this iconic and hallowed ground in Sonoma at Dunbar Road and Highway 12. The land has been in their family for over a century.

Planted originally in the 1880s then added to in the 1920s by Felice Pagani, most of the original vines still produce beautiful fruit. Most of it is field blended with Zinfandel, Alicante, Lenoir, Petite Sirah, Grand Noir, and many other heritage varieties.

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: 9-8-20 and 9-24-20

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 30% is new. Aged for 18 months in barrel. Only 297 cases produced.

Alcohol: 14.8%

Winemaker's Tasting Notes: Exuberant notes of strawberry jam, blackberry, pomegranate molasses, cigar box, and nougat with hints of white peach and jasmine on the nose. On the palate the wine has a plush entry with baking spice and strawberry becoming more prominent. It resonates on the palate with restrained tannins and phenomenal length.