

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

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**2021 Bedrock Vineyard**  
Sonoma County Zinfandel  
**THE RISE OF BEDROCK**

This is something of a golden era for Zinfandel. Old vines and historic sites that were long overlooked and nearly forgotten over decades are enjoying new repute among sommeliers and wine-lovers as our peer group of devout Zinfandel winemakers work to take Zinfandel to new heights. We know that Zinfandel, when treated expertly on proven historic sites, produces red wines that hold their own among the world's more famous European varieties. (We do know now that Zinfandel is an ancient grape whose origin was along the Adriatic coast and goes back centuries in Central Europe.) And let's say it: Zinfandel simply provides more smiles per bottle than any other red wine. Period.

One of the oldest and grandest Zinfandel vineyards of them all is situated in the heart of Sonoma Valley. It traces back to the Civil War era, was replanted in the 1880s under the ownership of Senator George Hearst, and came under its new ownership in the 2000s. Father and son, Joel Peterson and Morgan Twain-Peterson, took over what had been known as the Madrone Ranch, renamed it Bedrock, and began the long process of carefully restoring it to its former health and glory. Several top Zinfandel winemakers were invited to share fruit from the various blocks on this sizeable ranch that includes not only old Zinfandel vines, but Carignan, Alicante, Petite Sirah, Mataro, and various other nearly forgotten varieties that the old winemakers loved to plant together in a field blending system called "mixed blacks." Our Bedrock Zinfandel comes from a select block of 1880s vines that still kick out some delicious grapes.

**Vintage Notes:** The growing season saw rain in January and February then almost no notable precipitation for the rest of the season. This provided an ideal environment for grapes to flower, bloom and set in early spring. Budbreak was early in April followed by flowering and bloom in May. The summer saw early and even ripening with no concerning heat spikes. Everything tended early thanks to the calm spring with veraison appearing in early July. Due in part to the drought, yields were naturally lower, resulting in less dropping of fruit in the vineyards. It was one of the earliest starts to harvest on record. Harvest kicked off with clear skies and almost no weather events to worry winemakers. This allowed the grapes to hang as long as winemakers wanted to achieve optimal ripening and taste.

**Harvest Dates:** September 8<sup>th</sup>

**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 10 months in barrel.

**Alcohol:** 14.9%

**Winemaker's Tasting Notes:** Aromatics of violets, cardamom, dried figs, and vanilla on the nose. In the mouth, the density of the wine is apparent, with notes of blackberry, violet, leather, and baked plums, along with hints of white pepper. Ripe and graceful tannins round out a wine that will age gracefully, just like the vineyard from which it comes.

Only 81 cases produced.