



2021 First Grade Zinfandel

Napa Valley

— R O B E R T —
BIALE
V I N E Y A R D S
4038 Big Ranch Rd, Napa CA 94558
707.257.7555 | www.biale.com

Our First Grade is a culmination of the hours of dedication by the Biale team and our growers spent over an entire season, captured as a singular blend – a reflection and statement of the vintage. Meticulously crafted barrel by barrel by Winemaker David Natali, First Grade exemplifies the beauty, refinement, and longevity of Zinfandel framed by the individuality of each vintage. Assembled from a selection of vineyards, the First Grade is purposefully blended to age gracefully for years to come.

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 1st to October 15th

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. The 2021 blend was assembled in the spring following harvest and put back to barrel, of which 40% was new. Aged for a total of 16 months in barrel.

Alcohol: 14.8%

Winemaker's Tasting Notes: The 2021 vintage of First Grade was assembled from select blocks of our estate vineyards in the Oak Knoll District, R.W. Moore in Coombsville, along with other top performing lots of the vintage.

Exuberant aromas of raspberry preserves, sandalwood, blackberry, cloves, and coffee burst from the glass. Broad and rich on the palate with notes of dark plum, dates, leather and boysenberry. Finely grained tannins and a long and generous finish complete this benchmark of the 2021 vintage.

Only 119 cases produced.