

# — ROBERT — BIALE VINEYARDS

## 2023 OLD KRAFT VINEYARD

ST. HELENA, NAPA VALLEY 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 Hart 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 of a new special bottling among the series of Biale Zinfandels.

### VINTAGE NOTES:

The 2023 season was one of the coolest vintages in more than a decade that, as time progressed, showed all the markings of the spectacular vintage that ended up in the bottle. Several years of drought were erased in a single season as rains began just after the completion of the 2022 harvest and continued through the spring of 2023. Ample ground water and cool temperatures delayed budbreak until April with flowering in mid-May. Moderate temperatures through the spring and summer allowed for balanced maturation across all vineyards - allowing us to pick at the perfect intersections of flavor, sugar, acid, and tannin maturity. Harvesting at Robert Biale began with earlier sites in September while moderate heat at the start of October accelerated picking that lasted through the end of the month.

### WINEMAKER'S TASTING NOTES

Notes of black cherry, orange peel, fennel seed, and baking spice on the nose. Mouth filling on the palate and framed by finely woven tannins, the wine exhibits flavors of blackberry preserves, plum, fresh fig, sage, and wet slate.

341 cases produced.



<b>Harvest</b>	Sept. 15 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Aging</b>	9 months French oak; 28% new
<b>pH</b>	3.80
<b>TA</b>	4.7 g/L
<b>Alcohol</b>	14.8%