

— ROBERT — BIALE VINEYARDS

2023 NONNA'S VINEYARD SANGIOVESE OAK KNOLL DISTRICT OF NAPA VALLEY

In 1993, two years after we started the winery, Aldo converted a small vineyard block behind his house to Sangiovese and named it after his mother Cristina. It turned out to be so good that we broke from our Zinfandel course and added it to the Biale repertoire.

An immigrant from northern Italy, Nonna Cristina met her life partner Pietro Biale, also of northern Italy, while working in San Francisco. Together they saved and bought a small farm in Napa and raised walnuts, prunes, chickens, eggs, and of course Zinfandel grapes. When Pietro died in 1942, it was Cristina who took over the farming and kept the ranch going.

What we've learned about Sangiovese is that its vines are prolific and need to be kept in check. With that accomplished through some intensive farming, the wine takes on depth, complexity, and vivid flavors. We've also found our Sangiovese to be cellar worthy – it ages surprisingly well.

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

Prominent aromas of black cherry, dried thyme, and cedar in the glass. A supple and rich entry with balanced acidity, the palate shows flavors of red plum, anise, and bay leaf. Long and persistent, the finish is complete with finely woven tannins.

96 cases produced



Harvest	October 11 th
Aging	14 months French oak; 25% new
pH	3.53
TA	5.6 g/L
Alcohol	14.6%