



2020 Gardienne Heritage Block Old Vine Zinfandel, Rossi Ranch, Sonoma Valley (200 Cases Produced- **Organically Grown)**

Vineyard: This wine hails from the Heritage Block at Rossi Ranch, which was planted by the Rossi Family in 1910. While this historic block is a predominance of Zinfandel it is a true field blend including many other grape varieties, including Grenache, Mourvedre, Petite Sirah, Grand Noir, Syrah, Alicante Boushet, Carignane, Tannat and Muscat of Alexandria that can all be found in some quantity in this three-acre Block. This is our first Zinfandel harvested from Rossi Ranch located in one of our favorite appellations for Zinfandel, the Sonoma Valley. This site with its signature, red clay soil with calcareous deposits produces extremely unique, complex fruit. Located in a tiny valley adjacent to Sonoma Mountain, this small hillside block of dry farmed, head trained bush vines is extremely well drained and the yields are naturally low. Phil Coturri farms the entire Rossi Ranch Vineyard organically. We were thrilled at the chance to work with this amazing fruit from this historic site.

Winemaking: The Zinfandel and other grapes from the Heritage Block are so unique and distinctively flavored our job in stewarding the grapes to wine is to capture that very essence with as gentle handling as possible. The grapes were hand picked in the early morning the third week of September. We gently hand sorted, de-stemmed, and gravity fed the whole berries in to an open top fermenter for a five-day cold soak and primary fermentation using only native yeasts. The grapes were punched down by hand two times a day for approximately two and a half weeks after which the wine was pressed in to French Oak Barrels, 15% new, for malo-lactic fermentation and aging. The wine aged in barrel for 9 months and was racked and bottled unfiltered.

The Wine: Displays a vibrant garnet-purple color and an intensely fruited nose of crushed mulberries, black raspberries, red cherry and stone fruit with touches of pretty floral notes, baking spices and dusty earth. Medium-bodied and plush textured showing plenty of ripe, rich fruit and berry character, layers of spice with a juicy, lifted acidity that persists on the palate and carries the wine through the intense finish.

ADAM WEBB: WINEMAKER
adam@gardiennewines.com

Gardienne des Vignes: 531 First Street, East Sonoma, CA 95476
PH: 925-915-1662; Fax: 925-855-1194 Website: www.gardiennewines.com

