



2023 Gardienne Old Vine Zinfandel, Collins Vineyard Russian River Valley (150 Cases Produced- **Organically Grown)**

Vineyard: The Collins Vineyard was planted in 1934 and is part of what was originally called Limerick Lane Estate. This is a crown jewel of Russian River OldVine Zinfandel and has made some of the most classic California Zinfandel wines of all time from top producers like Ravenswood and Gary Farrell. The vineyard site is particularly well drained with alluvial clay and gravelly loam soils that are extremely rocky. The gnarly, old head-trained, bush vines benefit from the Russian River Valley's warm days, which help to develop the rich, powerful, ripe fruit flavors and the cool nights, which preserve the wine's charming natural acidity. We were thrilled at the chance to work with this amazing fruit from this historic site.

Winemaking: The Zinfandel grapes from the Collins Vineyard are so unique and distinctively flavored our job in stewarding the grapes to wine is to capture that very essence with as gentle handling in the winery as possible. The grapes were handpicked 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 into French Oak Barrels, 10% new, for malo-lactic fermentation and aging. The wine aged in barrel for 18 months and was racked and bottled unfiltered.

The Wine: Displays a deep, saturated garnet-purple color and an intensely fruited nose of briary blackberry, crème de cassis, black raspberry, wild black cherry and mulberries with touches of black tea, cola, baking spices, bay leaf and dusty earth. Medium-bodied and plush textured, showing plenty of ripe, rich fruit and dark, brooding berry character. The layers of fruit and spice continue to add length with a juicy, lifted acidity that persists on the palate and carries the wine through the intense, yet balanced, lingering finish.

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