

LONGBOARD

Vineyards

2018

Syrah

RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

DAKINE VINEYARD



I planted DaKine Vineyard, home to our estate fruit, in 2000. It is nestled at the bottom of an east-facing hill on Westside Road in Healdsburg. Two blocks of vines make up this wine: The large block is planted to Syrah, clone 7 on a modern vertical trellis. The small block is planted 4 feet by 4 feet and is farmed exclusively by hand, vines are trained and cane-pruned on a modified Guillot system. This small block is made of nine rows of 6 varieties that become the "spice rack" for making this wine. The Zinfandel adds spiciness, the Malbec flesh and blueberry notes, the Petit Sirah structure and lengthy tannins, the Carignane and Grenache earthiness and bright Cherry notes. Another clone of Syrah (CR) makes the sixth variety in the block. Unlike the blending that occurs in the laboratory of a winery, this is a field blend; all the grapes are harvested and fermented together in one tank.

The Dakine Syrah is made for ageing. The cool growing site combined with minimalistic winemaking practices work synergistically to produce a wine that develops over many years. At release, the wine is dominated by dark fruit aromas and flavors with a generous mid-palate and a finish marked by a balanced acidity. As it ages, earth, roasted coffee and fresh mushroom notes begin to show, as well as a light wild fennel note.

The 2018 vintage was a welcome return of Z"normal" weather pattern for the region, after a few year of hot and early harvests. A touch of rain inSeptember washed the dust off the grapes and led to a gorgeous October with cold night and warm days. The grapes were harvested at night, cold-soaked for three days at the winery and then fermented to dryness by our winery's "resident" yeast (that means no commercial yeast were added). In line with our philosophy, the point of this wine is to strike a balance of components that delivers a complex and layered experience that is true to the variety and the growing season.

Cheers,

Composition: 89 % Syrah, 2.5% Carignane, 2.0% Grenache, 2.5% Malbec, 2.0% Zinfandel, 1.5% Petit Sirah

Appellation: Russian River Valley

Fermentation: 3 Day cold-soak, Open top native fermentation

Ageing: 24 months in French Oak barrels, 30% New

Analysis: Alcohol 14.5 %
TA 6.5 g/L pH 3.69

Production: 80 Cases