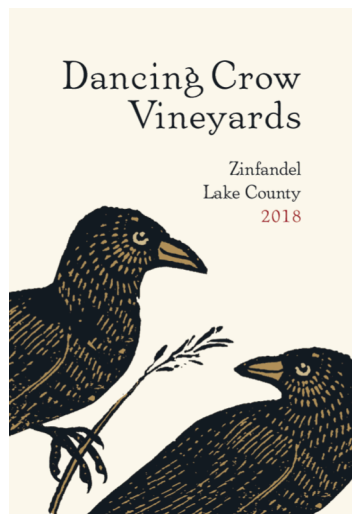


Dancing Crow Vineyards

2018 Lake County Zinfandel

The Growing Season

The 2018 Lake County Harvest got underway about a week later than last year. Spring brought an unusually plentiful set as a result of well-timed May rain followed by a sunny finish to that month. June continued the warming trend and July provided the heat that tempered berry size. By late September, the region's warm, summer temperatures gave way to mild, fall, coastal temperatures, which allowed for longer hang time. This "coastal effect" preserved the subtlety of aroma that is often lost in warmer vintages. While vineyard managers noted a larger crop than the prior year, sugars and acids were well balanced, leading growers and vintners to be optimistic about fruit quality.



Winemaking

This wine consists of fruit from both Lake County's Red Hills and Kelsey Bench AVAs, both of which are known for creating beautifully, bold, yet bright and balanced red wines. This Zinfandel is particularly enhanced by a blend of some unique "Old World" varieties from our newly acquired "Old Stake 1901 Vineyard" in the Kelsey Bench. This wine includes 6% Petite Sirah, 5% Alicante Bouschet, 5% Cinsault, 3% Touriga Nacional, 3% Syrah, 2% Barbera and 1% Rousanne. Our winemaking focused on integrating the bright red fruits of the Zinfandel with the clove, mocha and dark fruit notes of the "Field Blend" varieties. Finally, to finish the wine, we bottled unfiltered and unfined to retain the alluring freshness of this aromatically compelling and distinctively flavorful offering.

The Land

Lake County's Red Hills AVA is located in the northern Mayacamas mountain range, along the southwest edge of Clear Lake. Vineyard elevations range from 1,350 – 2,600 feet, showcasing soils that are volcanic in origin and characteristically deep, red, and iron-rich that result in grapes with thicker skins and more robust flavors. The Kelsey Bench AVA was originally a pyroclastic flow, and is a transition between the volcanic Mayacamas to the west and an alluvial flood plain to the east - with vineyards having largely northern exposure. The Kelsey Bench sits to the west of Clear Lake and is approximately 9,100 acres and has vines planted up to an elevation of 1600 feet. The elevation, along with the cooling effects of Clear Lake, create 50° diurnal temperature swings in summer, producing wine with perfect acidity, improved tannin structure and darker, more complex fruit characteristics.

Winemaker's Tasting Impressions

This Zinfandel highlights aromas of blackberry, fig compote and cedar, which lead into luscious flavors of ripe cherry, mocha and clove, then finally on to a sustained note of fresh cherry on the finish.

Varietals: 75% Zinfandel

6% Petite Sirah

5% Alicante Bouschet - 5% Cinsault

3% Touriga Nacional - 3% Syrah

2% Barbera

1% Rousanne

Appellation: Lake County: Red Hills AVA
Kelsey Bench AVA

Elevation: 1600 – 2500 ft.

Alcohol: 14.5%

Aging: 9 mo. French & Hungarian Oak

Cases Produced: 1600

Dancing Crow Vineyards – 2790 Spring Street, Saint Helena CA 94574 – (707) 287-4495

www.dancingcrow.com