

# Dancing Crow Vineyards

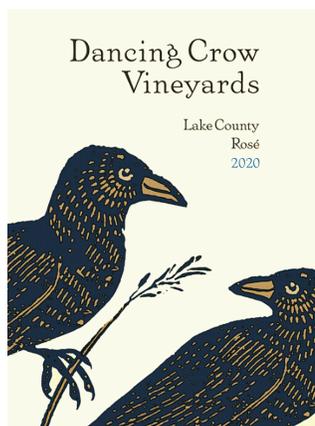
## 2020 Rosé – Lake County

### **The Growing Season**

The Lake County 2020 vintage was an interesting one to say the least. Between COVID-19 and the wildfires in the surrounding counties of Napa and Sonoma it was definitely a challenging harvest. However, we are learning how to adapt and excel when Mother Nature throws a few curve balls our way, and we are very enthusiastic about the quality of the wine we produced this year. For 2020, Rosé and White wines from Lake County are showing particularly well, with lighter yields but exceptional grape quality. The weather was mild through most of the growing season, followed by a manageable heat spike in September. Harvest began slightly earlier than normal due to the September heat and finished rapidly.

### **The Land**

Our Rosé comes from 25-to-30-year-old Syrah vines on the Smith Lane Vineyard, whose name alone tells you how long the Smiths, who own the property, have lived and farmed here. Looking for a vineyard planted to Rhône red grape varieties suitable for a Rosé, Smith Lane was the perfect find. The vineyard is located at 1,300 feet on the lower portion of the Kelsey Bench AVA and sits on dark clay-loam soils where abundant willows and a nearby pear orchard indicate the riparian nature of the environment.



### **Winemaking**

This 2020 wine was grown and harvested specifically to be a Rosé. By contrast, many Rosés are actually a by-product of red wine production, a solution to an unripe or overripe vintage. We add just a bit of our Sancerre-style Sauvignon Blanc to enhance the wine's brightness and aromatics. The Syrah grapes were hand picked at just around 21° Brix. 50% of the grapes are put through a classic "white pressing program" and the other 50% go through a "Champagne pressing" program. The former gives us more flavor and color, while the latter gives us a wine that has intriguing aromas and more elegant texture. Combining the two optimizes the qualities of the fruit and creates a fresh, subtle yet complex wine in the Provençal style.

### **Winemaker's Tasting Impressions**

The color of this wine entices with its pale pink hues. On the nose, aromas of floral jasmine and Alpine Strawberry abound. After the wine eases over the palate, flavors of ripe strawberries and Bartlett pears become readily apparent. The finish boasts notes of clover honey accented by a refreshing minerality. Much in the French style, this Rosé delivers just a suggestion of color, but follows with an abundance of complexity and flavor.

**Varietal:** 83% Syrah – 17% Sauvignon Blanc  
**Soil:** Clay Loam  
**Elevation:** 1300 ft.  
**pH:** 3.50

**AVA:** Kelsey Bench, Lake County  
**Aging:** 3 months stainless steel  
**Alcohol:** 12.5%  
**Acidity:** 6.0 g/L

**Dancing Crow Vineyards – P.O. Box 1225, Saint Helena CA 94574 – (707) 287-4495**

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