

Dancing Crow Vineyards

2020 Zinfandel – North Coast

Winemaker Tasting Impressions

Deep red in color, this Zinfandel showcases persuasive aromas of wild strawberry, huckleberry pie and violets, reinforced by vibrant flavors of pomegranate, cranberry, blood orange and boysenberry. This compelling wine is texturally balanced; with great acidity lifting the energy of the palate complimented by supple tannins, resulting in a seamless mouthfeel from front to back, all accentuated by a pleasingly long finish with a hint of exotic spice.

The Growing Season

In the North Coast region the growing season was mild to moderate overall, with bud break and flowering occurring a week earlier than in 2019, along with some mild spring frost events. In Lake County's Kelsey Bench AVA, the weather during the growing season was mild through most of the season, followed by a manageable heat spike in September. Harvest began slightly earlier than normal due to the September heat and finished rapidly. Mendocino County saw excellent overall fruit quality, and the region's Zinfandel performed well, seeing higher than average yields when compared with the previous year. Overall, we saw very good quality in the fruit that was harvested, with the grapes showing great balance between fruit, tannins and acidity.

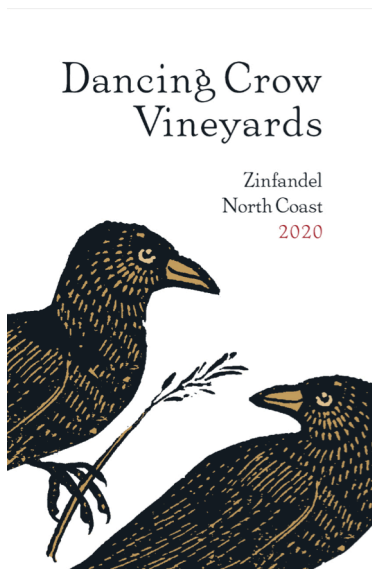
Winemaking

Hand harvested in early October and fermented cool (70F) to retain its delightful aromatic intensity, and resulting in a smooth and supple palate texture. This vintage benefitted from the fresh fruit character introduced from the Mendocino County's Ukiah Valley Zinfandel. Coastal breezes and the Russian River fog create conditions which optimize bright fruit and lifted aromatics, making them a natural compliment to the spicier, concentrated flavors of the Old Stake 1901 Vineyard's treasure trove of pre-Prohibition grape varieties including: Zinfandel, Alicante Bouschet, Cinsault, Touriga Nacional, Primitivo, Syrah. The winemaking focused on integrating the vivacious, red fruit of Mendocino with the darker savory fruit notes of the "Old Stake 1901" varieties. To high light both as they stand in delightful opposition.

The Land

The North Coast AVA is comprised of grape growing regions in six counties north of San Francisco, all with the common trait of having weather that is influenced by fog and/or cool airflows from the Pacific Ocean. This cooling effect helps create wines that have exceptional balance between fruit and acidity, along with more supple tannins. Our Old Stake 1901 Vineyard is a registered *Historic "Field Blend" Vineyard*

that was planted over 120 years ago in the fertile, deep-red soils of what is now called the Kelsey Bench AVA. This Lake County viticultural area develops no morning fog due to its 1450 ft. elevation, and during the summer months, can experience very hot days, but the vines are able to recover and respire in the evening due to the elevation and cool coastal breezes pulled in by the vast size of Clear Lake, which resides in the middle of the Lake County. Mendocino County is the northern most growing region of the North Coast AVA and is known for its unique microclimates that are particularly suited for growing Zinfandel grapes with bold, spicy flavors and vibrant acidity. The combination of Zinfandel from these two grape growing regions creates the best of both worlds for our final blend including, fresh acidity, spicy layers, and complex red fruit characteristics with balanced tannins.



Varietals: 76% Zinfandel
9% Alicante Bouschet,
9% Cinsault, 2% Touriga Nacional
2% Primitivo, 2% Syrah
Alcohol: 15%

Appellations: North Coast AVA: 71% Kelsey Bench
Lake County, 29% Mendocino County
Aging: 8 mo. French & American Oak – 25% new
TA: 5.6 g/L
pH: 3.84

Dancing Crow Vineyards – PO Box 1225, Saint Helena CA 94574 – (707) 287-4495

www.dancingcrow.com