

# Dancing Crow Vineyards

## 2021 Old Stake 1901 Vineyard – Field Blend

### Kelsey Bench AVA, Lake County CA

This wine consists entirely of fruit from our *Old Stake 1901 Vineyard* in Lake County's Kelsey Bench AVA. It is a "Field Blend" of more than 20 unique Old-World, pre-Prohibition grape varieties, with many of the vines planted over a 120 years ago. The vineyard is registered with the Historical Vineyard Society and recognized as being one of only a few 100+ year old Field Blend vineyards left in California.

### **Tasting Impressions**

With a color dancing between red and deep purple, this opulent and vibrant glass of wine gives off aromas of wild iris, sandalwood and blueberry pie. The palate is enlivened by a steady, generous flow of brambly huckleberry and bright blackberry flavors. The mid-palate is accented by a refreshing acidity that pleasantly escorts you to subtle spice notes of wild thyme, white pepper and lavender on the way to a lengthy and lingering smooth mocha finish.



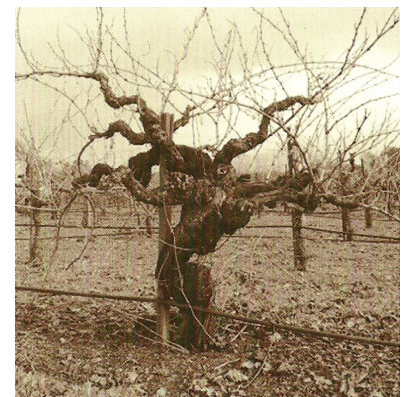
### **The Growing Season**

The 2021 harvest in Lake County displayed excellent flavor intensity and outstanding overall quality, showcasing what we feel could be a banner vintage for our Old Stake 1901 Field Blend. The growing conditions early on, in the Kelsey Bench AVA prompted a slightly earlier bud break, which led to a longer hangtime for the fruit. And while the overall tonnage in our Old Stake 1901 Field Blend vineyard was slightly decreased, the loosely-bunched clusters encouraged steady ripening, with the grapes demonstrating superbly balanced flavors and tannin profiles. These ancient vines have shown amazing ability to produce high quality fruit year after year and this vintage is no exception.

### **Winemaking**

The entirety of the 20+ different varieties of grapes are hand-harvested together from the 7-acre, head pruned vineyard in a single nighttime picking

session. The fruit is then transported to the winery where all of the assorted varieties are co-fermented together in a style similar to the traditional Old World field blends and then aged for 6 months in French oak. To finish the wine, we bottle unfiltered and unfinned to retain the Old Stake's characteristic freshness and unique aromatic qualities.



### **The Land**

Lake County's Kelsey Bench AVA was originally a pyroclastic flow and is a transition between the volcanic Mayacamas Mountains to the west and the alluvial flood plain of Clear Lake to the east. The soils in the vineyard reflect this transition, offering mildly rocky, red volcanic elements mixed with alluvial loams. The vineyard sits at 1,450 ft. and this elevation, along with the cooling effects of the lake and the nearby mountains, create 50°F diurnal temperature swings, producing wine of excellent acidity, improved tannin structure and darker, more complex fruit characteristics.

#### **Varietals:**

65% Zinfandel, 10% Cinsault  
8% Alicante Bouschet, 6% Syrah,  
5% Touriga Nacional, 2% Primitivo  
2% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% other

**Appellation:** Kelsey Bench AVA, Lake County CA

**Elevation:** 1475 ft.

**Soils:** Volcanic/Alluvial

**Aging:** 6 months French oak

**Alcohol:** 14.5%

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**[www.dancingcrow.com](http://www.dancingcrow.com)**