

Dancing Crow Vineyards

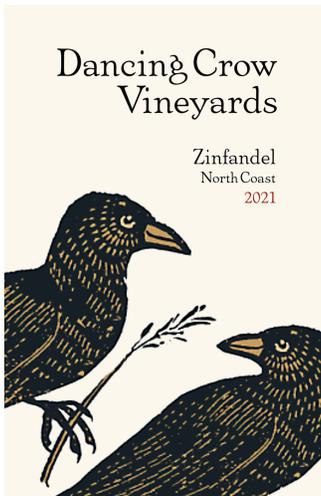
2021 North Coast Zinfandel

Winemaker Tasting Impressions

This Zinfandel showcases aromas of white pepper and rose petal on the nose, followed by flavors of dark cherry and red plum. This wine is robust, yet refined and playful, exhibiting a beautiful freshness and vibrant flavors.

The Growing Season

The 2021 North Coast vintage and especially Mendocino County reported very good quality with slightly lower yields due to a dry winter and spring and cold conditions, with a higher-than average number of frost days. Bud break happened earlier than normal while flowering and fruit set was somewhat uneven in most varieties, resulting in lower yields. Harvest began two to three weeks ahead of normal. However, the smaller crop size helped to enhance quality, with red grapes having lower-than-normal Brix levels and higher levels of natural acidity, as well as good tannin structure compared to other warm vintages. These abundant acids in the 2021 grapes complement the vintage's ripeness, creating wines with vibrant aromas and flavors, and mouthwatering freshness on the palate. Acidity is also a key to longevity, so this year has the potential to age well and gain greater complexity with time. Overall, the resiliency of the vines led to a successful harvest, with the grapes displaying bright acidity, balanced flavors and excellent quality, and the wines showing notable vibrancy and dynamic varietal character.



Winemaking

This wine benefitted from the fresh fruit character of the Mendocino County Zinfandel. The warm days and cool afternoon coastal breezes create a terroir which elevates the fruit with compelling aromatics. The Petite Sirah added an extra element of richness, depth and complexity. The winemaking focused on integrating the wine's natural acidity with the luscious red and dark fruit characteristics of both the Zinfandel and Petite Sirah. Finally, to finish the wine, we bottle at the peak of aromatic intensity to retain a refreshing, floral elegance.

The Land

The North Coast AVA is comprised of grape growing regions in six counties north of San Francisco. These counties have the common trait of weather that is influenced by fog and/or cool airflows from the Pacific Ocean. During the summer months the North Coast can experience very hot days, but the vines are able to recover and respire in the evening due to the cool coastal breezes. This cooling effect helps create wines that have exceptional balance between fruit and acidity, along with more supple tannins. Mendocino County is the northern-most growing region of the North Coast AVA and is known for its unique microclimates, alluvial soils and gravelly loam that are particularly suited for growing Zinfandel grapes with vibrant acidity and bold, complex red fruit flavors and balanced tannins.

Varietals: 76% Zinfandel
24% Petite Sirah
Alcohol: 14.5%

Appellation: North Coast AVA, California
pH: 3.68
TA: 0.55

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