

Dancing Crow Vineyards

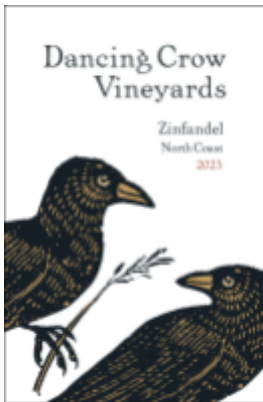
2023 Zinfandel – North Coast

Winemaker Sensory Impressions

“The vast majority of this Zinfandel blend comes from vines planted in the 1950s in the Calpella area, north of Ukiah. Working with old vines is tricky, but when the vines are truly cared for, they can create wines of unmatched concentration and depth. This wine is an absolutely classic expression of California Zinfandel. Immediately you are hit with the unmistakable aroma of a mixed berry pie, fresh red rose petals, toffee and a twinge of white pepper. The flavors and aromas here are equally precise and generous with moderate amounts of acid and tannin to hold everything together. One of my favorite things about this wine is how it finishes, those delicious flavors stay on your tongue for what seems like forever.” - *Winemaker Scott Kirkpatrick*

The Growing Season

The 2023 North Coast vintage, and particularly, the Mendocino County harvest was unconventional and fairly unusual, but in a way that ultimately benefited the fruit in the vineyards and the wines in general. Grapes were delayed by 2-3 weeks due to a slow start, and a cooler than normal spring and summer. We saw a mix of red and white grapes being harvested simultaneously which is somewhat rare. However, the longer hang times and cooler temperatures produced one of the best vintages we've seen in the last 20 or so years, with grape quality being extraordinary. Yields ranged from average in some Mendocino County AVAs to high in some Lake County areas, however, the constant was the outstanding quality of the fruit. The reds - and particularly Zinfandel - showed an ideal balance between tannins, acidity and bright red fruit flavors, with the wines showing bountiful aromatics and a beautiful depth and complexity.



Winemaking

This wine benefitted from the fresh fruit character of the Mendocino County Zinfandel showing red fruit flavors and firm, yet rounded tannins.. The warm days and cool coastal breezes create an environment which elevates the fruit flavors and accentuates the compelling aromatics. The winemaking focused on balancing the wine's natural acidity with the luscious red and darker fruit characteristics, while taking care to let the tannins shine in a way that provides a meaningful backbone without being overly aggressive.

The Land

The North Coast AVA comprises 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 air flows 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 northernmost 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.

Appellation: North Coast AVA, CA	TA: 5.6 g/L
Aging: 8 months French Oak Foudre	pH: 3.68
Alcohol: 14.5%	

Dancing Crow Vineyards - 2790 Spring Street, Saint Helena, CA 94574 - (707) 230-6174

Email: info@dancingcrow.com