

2017 Zinfandel, Lily Hill Vineyard



History

One of the most vibrant and fruit-forward zinfandels made at Dashe Cellars, the Lily Hill vineyard is an ongoing favorite of Dashe Cellars fans. The vineyard is owned by Scott and Lynn Adams of Bella Vineyards and Winecaves, who named this vineyard after their daughter Lillia. The vineyard is located on a steep, rocky slope with a very thin layer of dirt over red volcanic rock, which makes these vines struggle to produce tiny amounts of black, intense grapes.

Production

Luckily, we harvested these grapes long before the fires that engulfed the nearby mountains later in the year in 2017. The vines produced perfectly mature Zinfandel, which was harvested into ½ ton picking bins, then hand-sorted on conveyors, and finally fermented using the native yeasts found naturally on the grapes.

These grapes always ferment slowly, and the wine characteristically is very dark and extremely intense in flavor due to the time on skins.

Because it's a structured wine, we let it age for 20 months in a combination of new and older French oak barrels. As the wine aged, it deepened in color and developed a complexity and firm structure that we believe will help the wine improve with up to fifteen years of bottle age.

Production Notes:

Varietals

100% Zinfandel

Appellation

Dry Creek Valley

Alcohol

14.8% by vol.

Time in oak

20 months

Oak

90% 1-year or older French oak 120 gal puncheons and 60 gal barrels, 10% new 60 gal French Oak barrels

Production

108 cases, 1.5L

Optimum time for consumption

2019-2034

Tasting Notes:

Color: Reddish purple

Aroma: Lovely fruit aromas of black currents, blackberry, and pomegranate, followed by deeper aromas of chocolate, forest floor, licorice, graphite, and subtle floral notes of violets.

Taste: Lush, very structured but balanced; a big wine with a sensuous texture. Entry flavors of black current and black cherry, mixed with darker earth and mineral flavors. The wine is ripe but with firm acid and silky tannins in a very structured wine. Long, sweet finish of black current and peppery spice.