

Dancing Crow Vineyards

Old Stake 1901 Vineyard – 2020 Field Blend

This wine consists entirely of fruit from our recently acquired *Old Stake 1901 Vineyard* in Lake County's Kelsey Bench AVA. It is a "Field Blend" of several unique Old World varieties, with some of the vines planted 120 years ago and still producing fruit. The vineyard is registered with the Historical Vineyard Society.



The Growing Season

Spring of 2020 was mild and the rains were adequate but not plentiful. Set proceeded in a rapid fashion due to a warm and clear May without interruption from either frost or rains. Summer ripened smaller than average berries into the ideal size for producing a wine of considerable concentration. "Cooler than typical" August and September days provided a lengthy hang time to resolve tannins and ripen the skins and seeds to perfection. The daily arrival of the winds coming off the Red Hills and proceeding towards Clearlake lifted the heat from the ground and restored the vines to equilibrium as they slumbered each night. This recovery is essential to producing a wine with the natural acidity and delicate flavors that fill each glass. We harvested on Friday, October 2 with the grapes showing an optimum balance of sugar and acidity. Coupled with the 100+ year vine age of this rare field blend, the 2020 vintage promises complexity and balance until 2032.

Winemaking

The vineyard and the wine are a treasure trove of pre-Prohibition grape varieties with an emphasis on Zinfandel, Cinsault and Alicante Bouschet. The blend is accented by plantings of Touriga Nacional, Syrah, Primitivo, Cabernet Sauvignon, Counoise, and a host of other interesting grape varieties, to date we have identified 24, with many rarely found in California's north coast. The grapes were harvested together and co-fermented in the style of traditional field blends then aged for 8 months in French oak. To finish the wine, we bottled unfiltered and unfinned to retain the alluring freshness of this aromatically compelling and distinctively flavorful offering.



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.

Tasting Impressions from the Winemakers - *David and Katherine DeSante*

Aromas of boysenberry, ripe cherry and violets leap energetically from the glass. The palate presents with ripe Bing Cherry, plum and cardamom. This wine's flavors are balanced by its medium body and elegant complexity and depth. Flavors of sage and mocha persist on the finish with a note of ripe plum. Can you say "Lake County Châteauneuf du Pape?"

Varietals:

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

Appellation: Lake County, Kelsey Bench AVA

Elevation: 1475 ft.

Soils: Volcanic/Alluvial

Ageing: 8 months French Oak

Alcohol: 15%