



2016 CUVÉE KICK RANCH VINEYARD – FOUNTAINGROVE DISTRICT

Vintage

Drought conditions persisted through the 2016 growing season with many new records set with bud break and early ripening in all our vineyards. The plants continued to accelerate their cycle through harvest with some of the earliest pick dates on record. All our grapes were harvested before the first significant Autumn rain. Set was decent and the dry conditions were perfect for sustainable farming with very little disease pressure. Quality in 2016 is fantastic, and the weather during harvest time was ideal. The heat waves were mild and we had some wide picking windows to strategically plan our stylistic preferences for all wines. An incredible 5th consecutive high quality vintage.

Vineyard

Kick Ranch is a hillside vineyard located in Sonoma County's newest AVA, Fountaingrove District. Its soil is Pleasanton-Haire complex that has been deposited in an alluvial fan surrounding natural runoff from the Mayacama mountains. Fantastic drainage has forced the plants to dig deep roots, naturally balancing the vines with low yields and concentrated fruit. With a straight shot through the Petaluma wind gap, the cool maritime breezes balance the intense afternoon exposure. This results in dark, ripe fruit with good acidity.

Winemaking

The fruit was hand harvested and arrived at the winery at dawn. Once received, the grapes were sprinkled with dry ice to keep cold, and protected from oxidation. The de-stemmed Grenache was fed to a stainless steel open top fermenter. A 10% saignée was taken of the Grenache before de-stemmed Syrah and 15% whole-cluster Syrah were crushed over the top. Gentle pump-overs extracted silky tannins. The wine aged for 20 months (10% new French oak barrels and a neutral French oak puncheon). This is the last vintage of Kale Home Run Cuvée. 2017 fires affected our rows, and have been replanted to other varieties since. We are pleased to share with you the "Swan Song" 2016 vintage.

Tasting Notes

Much more red and fresh fruit than previous vintages, showing fresh ground white pepper and cardamom. The Grenache is taking a more central role in the blend this year despite being only 49%. The texture is plush and generous, and the tannins have smoothed substantially since bottling day. The typical tobacco and smoked meat character is subdued in the 2016, and it is showing much more freshness and plum which should bode well for aging – 10-15 years.

Analysis

Harvested: September 27, 2016
Composition: 51% Syrah, 49% Grenache
Alcohol: 14.7%
Bottling Date: August 2018
Release Date: April 2021
Production: 107 cases

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