

2017 BEESON RANCH ZINFANDEL – DRY CREEK VALLEY



92 Points
Wine Spectator

HISTORY

Planted in the late 1800s, Beeson Ranch is one of Dry Creek Valley's oldest and most prized vineyards. Located along West Dry Creek Road, Beeson Ranch faces east and extends up several gentle hillsides to a forest of conifer trees. The old gnarled vines, first planted by Italian immigrants, provide us with some of our most intriguing Zinfandel grapes. This incredible vineyard is truly a labor of love and stands as a testament to the character and history that makes Dry Creek Valley a special place to grow grapes.

GROWING SEASON

The 2017 growing season started off with record-setting rainfalls that were much appreciated after almost five years of drought. As flowering started, foggy and windy days, as well as unusual heat spikes made for an eclectic mix of conditions. An extreme heat wave at the end of August through the first few days of September set off a fast-paced early stretch of the harvest. As the heatwave broke and temperatures actually fell to below normal ranges, the pace slowed to allow the vines and our winemaking team to catch their breath. At the time of the wildfires in October, all of our Zinfandel lots had already been harvested. Despite the unusual cards that nature dealt, the 2017 vintage shows excellent concentration of flavors and outstanding varietal quality.

WINEMAKER COMMENTS

The initial aromatics of the wine are refined and elegant with underlying elements of allspice and sage. After several minutes of airing, more dramatic aromas of blackberry, black cherry and cocoa powder come through with hints of leather and white pepper. The palate is supple and rich with silky tannins that mingle with flavors of black cherry, blackberry, black tea and espresso.

RELEASE DATE	February 2020
BLEND	84% Zinfandel, 16% Petite Sirah
APPELLATION	Dry Creek Valley
HARVEST DATES	September 20 - 28, 2017
ALCOHOL	14.6%
FERMENTATION	12 - 15 days in fermenters at 82 - 88°F; pumped over twice daily.
BARREL AGING	18 months in French and Hungarian oak; 27% new oak
BRIX	Average 24.6
PH	3.74
TA	6.3g/L
SOILS	Iron rich, reddish soils
VINE AGE	100+ years
YIELDS	Less than 1 ton per acre

