



PLAYING WITH FIRE
NAPA VALLEY RED BLEND
2016



2016 VINTAGE

After five years of drought we saw some relief in the form of substantial, nourishing rains during the winter months. An early, warm spring prompted an early budbreak, with veraison also starting early in most northern California vineyards. It seemed like 2016 would be another early vintage, until the moderate, steady heat of summer stretched the ripening season a little longer than expected. We allowed the fruit to hang a little longer and achieve ideal ripeness. The early rains in October were of no concern since the wines were already happily fermenting in the winery before the first drop fell. We are happy to report that the quality of the 2016 vintage is simply superb.

TASTING NOTES

A complex cornucopia of dark brooding black fruit, blueberry and baking spice aromas. Subtle nuances of delicate floral and pink peppercorns interlaced with ripe red summer fruit, savory herbs, meaty bacon, and hints of wet red clay. Bold and expressive, showing toasted Italian bread, chocolate covered strawberries and a pinch of Espelette pepper. The Rhône grape varieties of Grenache and Syrah, when partnered with the Malbec, offer both old world and new world character. Flavors quickly evolve from black cherry to fresh mint, vanilla and baking spice before returning to its dark raspberry core. The finish is youthful with silky tannin and mouth-watering acidity. Ready to drink upon release yet worthy of some cellar time.

Vintage: 2016

Appellation: 100% Napa Valley

Varietal: 32% Malbec, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Grenache, 12% Syrah, 4% Viognier (co-fermented with the Syrah), 2% Mourvedre

Alcohol: 14.1%

Fermentation: 100% French oak, 70% New, 30% 2-Year French oak barrels

Production: 560 cases