



FROG'S LEAP

2020 HERITAGE BLEND

NAPA VALLEY

A BRIEF HISTORY

One of the coolest parts about growing grapes and making wine in California is the presence of “field blends”—wines made from several different varieties growing alongside one another in the same field. These blends are usually unique to a given site, and often consist of grapes that are so obscure as to be nearly extinct in the modern wine world. Each of these wines tell a unique story about the place in which they're grown, and form a delicious connection to the long history of experimentation and risk-taking that are the essence of making wine in California.

Our purchase of the historic Rossi vineyard in 2007 gave our family the opportunity to draw this connection. There were still a handful of historic blocks at Rossi, surrounded by the Sauvignon Blanc and Cabernet Sauvignon. We made a concerted effort not only to preserve those blocks, but also to augment them with new plantings of other historic varieties: ultra-rare Charbono with its plummy fruit, Carignane and Petite Sirah with their density and tannin, and Mourvèdre with its spice and length on the palate. The Heritage block sits in front of the iconic water tower at Rossi, and is a living reminder of our link to previous generations of winegrowers, as well as a testament to our belief that the greatest wines in California have always been the result of someone making good on a crazy idea.

ABOUT THE WINE

In the few short years since we began making the Heritage, the wine has quickly moved from a curiosity (“that crazy John”) to being one of our favorite wines we make every year. The Heritage is all picked on a single day and all grapes are co-fermented in the same tank. Seeing the diversity of old, stalwart varieties come together into such a delicious wine makes it one of the most exciting days of the harvest season. In 2020, extra-large inclusions of old-vine Valdiguié and Riesling—yes, Riesling—gave the wine lots of top-note lift on the nose, counteracting the effects of the very warm harvest season and a very hot Labor Day weekend in particular. The end result is a fresh, complex, welterweight red that throws the door open on what it means to be a Napa red wine—and that disappears from your glass at an alarming rate. Find out why we love this wine so much. RW



THE BLEND

- 38% Charbono, Rossi Vineyard, Rutherford
- 18% Valdiguié, Rossi Vineyard, Rutherford
- 16% Petite sirah, Pesch Vineyard, Rutherford
- 15% Mourvèdre, Rossi Vineyard, Rutherford
- 7% Carignane, Rossi Vineyard, Rutherford
- 6% Riesling, Rossi Vineyard, Rutherford

STATISTICS

- harvested: September 4
- harvest chemistry: 20.9° brix, 5.6g/L total acidity, 3.62pH
- final chemistry: 12.4% alcohol, 6.0g/L total acidity, 3.66 pH,
- 0.06% residual sugar
- bottled November 17 2021
- 1,190 cases produced

WINEMAKERS

- John Williams
- Rory Williams
- Pablo Polanco

VINEYARDIST

- Frank Leeds

VINES

100% certified organic and dry farmed. All blocks are head-trained in the old-school gobelet style so classic to historic vineyards in California.

The soil type is the gravelly loam of the Pleasanton and Bale soil series—as our bankers frequently remind us, we'd make a lot more money planting Cabernet here

BALANCE, RESTRAINT AND DEEP RESPECT FOR THE NATURAL EXPRESSION OF THE VINE