



ZINFANDEL

GONZALEZ VINEYARD ST. HELENA, NAPA VALLEY 2024

A BRIEF HISTORY

Just south of the town of St. Helena, in the heart of the Napa Valley, lies a “band of zin ground” stretching from the Mayacamas Mountains in the west to the Vaca Mountains in the east. For generations this has been the home of many of the valley’s most notable Zinfandels. On this strip of gravelly, loamy soil lies the eight-acre Gonzales Vineyard which was purchased and planted by the Gonzales family some 70 years ago near the end of World War Two. Grapes grown in this vineyard have been a part of Frog’s Leap Zinfandel since 1996. Shortly thereafter the quality of the fruit and the site’s great potential prompted Frog’s Leap to sign a 30-year lease allowing the winery to manage the vineyard completely. Planted in the ancient tradition of a field blend, Zinfandel, Petite sirah and Carignan vines grow side by side in the summer sun mutually benefiting from shared cover crops and the winery’s commitment to dry-farming and organic practices. When harvest rolls around the three varieties are picked by hand and sent to one tank to ferment collectively; always harmonious from vineyard to bottle.

TASTING NOTES

The tiny Gonzalez vineyard is wedged on a landing of alluvial soil derived from the volcanic tufa and rhyolite that dominates this hills on the eastern side of St. Helena (you can gather obsidian from the roadcuts in this part of the valley). This type of soil delivers an especially upright, structured and perfumed expression of Zinfandel that we have always found enchanting. The ‘24 Gonzalez possesses all of the rich, spicy fruit that one expects of Zinfandel, but brings extra dimensions along for the ride: cinnamon spice, spearmint and cherry cola accompany a fully-textured palate and a long finish. We last made a Gonzalez Zinfandel in 2014, and that wine continues to impress as it enters its middle age; the ‘24 is seriously delicious now, but will reward patience as well.

The Blend

85% ZINFANDEL
9.6% PETIT SIRAH
4.6% CARIGNAN

Statistics

14.2% ALCOHOL
5.08 G/L TOTAL ACIDITY
3.64 PH
0.6% RESIDUAL SUGAR

The Vines

ST. HELENA AVA
100% GONZALEZ VINEYARD

Winemakers

JOHN WILLIAMS
RORY WILLIAMS
PABLO POLANCO

FROG’S LEAP