2018 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

Following a long growing season characterized by cooler than normal temperatures throughout the spring and summer, the 2018 harvest started 5–8 days later than the past several years. The milder temperatures afforded the luxury of a longer hang time for the grapes, allowing them to fully mature while retaining a high level of acidity. Overall, the harvest was plentiful with some vineyards producing higher than average quantities. The season ended with the ideal combination of warm days and cooler nights which enabled the high quality of grapes to thrive while developing complexity and nuance.

WINEMAKER COMMENTS

The initial aromatics of the wine are refined and elegant with underlying elements of boysenberry, white pepper, and bay leaf. After several minutes of airing, hints of vanilla and cocoa powder waft from the glass. The full palate is supple and rich with notes of cardamom, fine leather, and ripe raspberry. The wine's earthy complexity and fine tannins helps support a smooth and silky texture.

RELEASE DATE	February 2021
BLEND	84% Zinfandel, 16% Petite Sirah
APPELLATION	Dry Creek Valley
HARVEST DATES	September 15 – October 1, 2018
ALCOHOL	14.5%
FERMENTATION	12–15 days in fermenters at 82–88°F; pumped over twice daily.
BARREL AGING	17 months in Hungarian, French, and American oak; 24% new oak
Brix	Average 24.4
рН	3.61
ТА	6.6g/L
Soils	Iron rich, reddish soils
VINE AGE	100+ years
YIELDS	Less than I ton per acre
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