

Calafia



2020 Zinfandel

Vintage: 2020

Appellation: Rockpile, Sonoma County

Tasting Notes:

The color is a deep magenta red with a purple hue. The wine opens with a red fruit profile and spicy notes. As it opens in the glass, blackberries, brambles, pepper with hints of clove, rosemary, and cinnamon emerge. The wine is round and rich, even silky on the palate. It finishes with fine-grain tannins reminiscent of Cabernets, which is very typical of Rockpile Ridge, being high elevation with dry soils.

Food Pairings: Zinfandel classic pairings include grilled lamb, grilled beef and ribs though it goes beautifully with pastas, stews, and hearty cheeses too.

Vineyards:

The vineyard is owned and farmed by the eponymous Jack Florence, Jr. Jack planted the vineyard in 1994, the first Zinfandel vineyard in the Rockpile appellation using the iconic St. Peter's Church clone. He used 110 Rupestris rootstock and a VSP trellis. Now 28 years old, the vineyard yields 2-3 tons an acre and produces consistent high-quality fruit.

Vintage Notes:

The winter of 2020 yielded only about 20" of rain, half of normal but enough to fill reservoirs and provide adequate irrigation. Spring weather at flowering was mild, thus allowing a "normal" fruit set. Summer weather was also mild and veraison started "on time" around August 10th. Fortunately, the Walbridge Fire in late September was southwest of the Rockpile appellation and no smoke damage occurred. Harvest proceeded on target.

Fermentation & Aging:

The grapes were crushed on September 19th, the same day as in 2019! The Brix was a point lower at 25.1°. The acid was 5.0g/liter and pH was 3.72. Fermentation took place in a stainless-steel tank and pumped over 3-4 times per day. Pressing was very gentle using a tank press at under 2 bars. The wine was aged for 30 months in once-filled tight-grain French oak barrels to allow 100% Zinfandel fruit expression with subtle oak nuances. The wine was bottled in July 2022.

Technical Details:

Production: 60 Cases

Blend: 92% Zinfandel, 8% Petite Sirah

Cooperage: 100% French Oak

Release: October 2022