

2019 Zinfandel

Biglieri Vineyard · Old Vines

Dry Creek Valley

Harvest

Nonagenarian Pio Biglieri trusts his neighbor and long time vineyard manager, Harold Hoskins, to tend the vines with a meticulous touch and a hands-off approach. As the harvest date nears, he thins the crop cluster by cluster, retaining only the most evenly colored and ripened fruit. On picking day, additional clusters are eliminated through hand sorting. Given Zinfandel's propensity for uneven ripening, it is always incredible when the Biglieri Zinfandel hits the crush pad looking like the best grapes of the harvest!

Vineyard

We love Zinfandel from regions where cooler weather prevails, and the 66 year old vines at Biglieri Vineyard in Dry Creek Valley are a perennial favorite.

Winemaking

Hand-harvested fruit was cold-extracted for three days with vigorous irrigations, coaxing color and tannin early in the fermentation. The pumpover rate was decreased after peak fermentation, and the new wine pressed at dryness to avoid excess tannin. The wine was aged entirely in French oak, 30% new, for twenty-one months as befits our claret style of Zinfandel. No fining was required.

Tasting Notes

Black plum and pomegranate interlace with white pepper and cedar from the French oak. The wine's entry introduces a complex array of flavors, adding boysenberry and vanilla to the mix. An expansive mid-palate leads to a lingering finish. The balance of this quintessential Zinfandel allows great versatility with food, and its deceptive heartiness will reward experiments with exotic pairings.

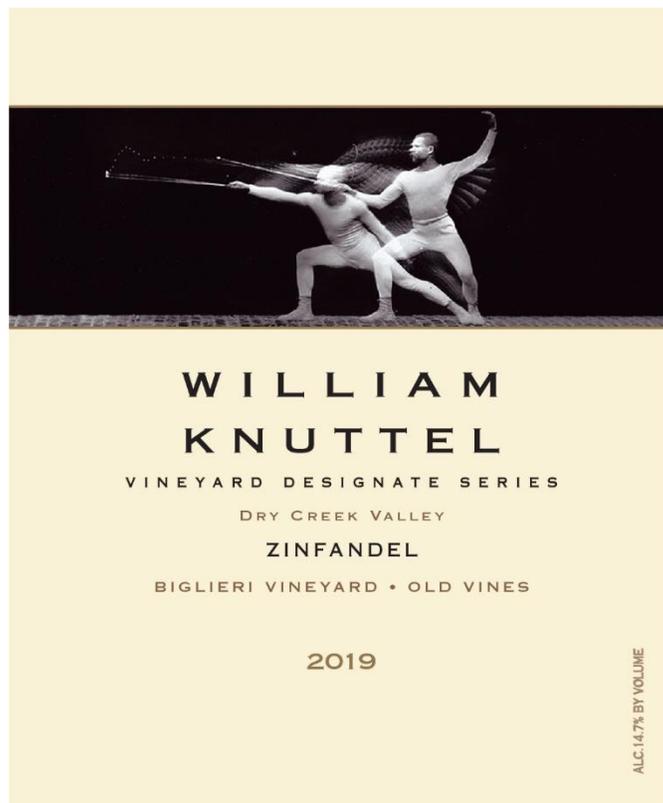
YIELD: 3.4 tons/acre

AGING: 21 months in French oak, 30% new, 60% 2 year-old

COOPERAGE: Francois Freres, Tonnelleries O, Damy

TA/pH: 5.7 g/L & 3.76 R.S.: 0.05 g/100ml

CASES: 254 (12 x 750ml)



William Knuttel was formerly Winemaker & Vice President with Chalk Hill Estate from 1996 to 2003, specializing in ultra-premium Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, & Sauvignon Blanc, and Dry Creek Vineyard's Executive Winemaker from 2003 to 2011. As proprietor of Tria, 1995 to 2003, he produced fine Pinot Noir and Zinfandel. As Saintsbury's winemaker from 1983 to 1996, Knuttel established that brand as a leader in ultra-premium Pinot Noir and Chardonnay.

ABOUT THE LABEL ART:

Designer Jeffrey Caldewey captured William Knuttel's kinetic wine world with Etienne-Jules Marey's 1890 "chronophotograph," in which multiple exposures are superimposed to show the complete motion of "le coup d'eepe." The image metaphorically highlights the balance, finesse, power and poise valued by the wine-maker.