



DUTCHER CROSSING

2007

Maple Vineyard, "Bill's Block"

ZINFANDEL

Dry Creek Valley

THE VARIETIES & VINEYARDS

The famed Maple Vineyard is located on a clay-loam bench land just off of Dry Creek Road. In many ways, the Maple Vineyard is the perfect example of classic Dry Creek Valley growing due to their dry farming and head training of the vines. In addition, the wine produced from the Maple Vineyard at Dutcher Crossing has become a powerful expression of the valley and a memorable capturing of their site in the bottle.

Tom and Tina Maple offered us a very special block of Zinfandel in 2007, a block with grapes that we have never worked with previously. The aroma and flavor profiles from Bill's Block are quite different from our regular bottling of Maple Vineyard Zinfandel. Bill's Block is a mixed planted block consisting of Zinfandel, Carignane, Petite Sirah, Mataro and Alicante Bouchet. Planted in 1940, Bill's Block is a true rarity that harks back to the Zinfandel of bygone times.

THE VINTAGE

Drought years in California tend to produce yummy, extracted big wines. As in past years with low Spring rainfall, the vines bud out two to three weeks earlier than normal. While this tends to extend the "hang time," producing more concentrated flavors, it can also wreak havoc in the vineyard if we experience late frosts; we were fortunate with just longer "hang time."

In 2007, after 10 days of near 100 degree weather in the first week and a half of September, it appeared that the grapes might have shriveled excessively. Fortunately, due to Carignane's slower maturity, the homogenous pick of all varieties and co-fermentation produced a wine that is plenty ripe, but not exceedingly so.

THE BLEND

100% Maple Vineyard, Bill's Block Field Blend
86.5% Zinfandel
4.5% Petite Sirah
4.5% Carignane
4.5% Mataro
4 or 5 vines of Alicante Bouchet

WINEMAKING

2 days cold soak
Yeast: L2226 (A Rhone Valley isolate)
Open Top Tank with Punch Down Fermentation
15 days total maceration
40% New French Oak Barrels
10 months in barrel

THE WINE

Our first rendition of Maple Vineyard Bill's Block is a concentrated and huge big brother to our regular bottling of Maple Vineyard Zinfandel. The color is deep purple. The aromas are almost purely explosive fruit, including blackberry, plum, and exotic candied fruit, but with the addition of sweet spice and almost tropical Sangria like notes. On the palate, the perception of sweetness continues, with multi layered sweet fruits reminiscent of Santa Rosa Plum and Raspberry. The flavors are lingering and with lovely length full of texture and pleasure. This can all be summed up in a one word nutshell: yummy!

THE STATS

Alcohol: 15.1%
Total Acidity: 5.61 grams/liter
PH: 3.93
Residual Sugar: 0.017%

Winemakers: Kerry G Damskey, Dan Glover

Production: 139 Cases

Date of Bottling: December 2008

Retail: \$49/btl