

2008
Maple Vineyard
ZINFANDEL
Dry Creek Valley

THE VARIETIES & VINEYARDS

Our friends, Tom and Tina Maple grow some of the best Zinfandel in Dry Creek Valley. The Maple Vineyard is a forty acre vineyard planted midway up the valley to dry farmed and head trained Zinfandel, with a spattering of Petite Sirah, Carignane, Matero, Alicante Bouchet and Black Mavatia. We at Dutcher Crossing pull our grapes with counsel from Tom and Tina from four different blocks, all mostly Zinfandel. With the Zinfandel, Tom also delivers to us a small amount of Petite Sirah which we ferment separately, and usually add entirely back into the blend before bottling.

THE VINTAGE

In the Maple Vineyard, Tom pretty much knows what my criteria for Zinfandel maturity is. Tom will call me on my mobile and tell me that it's getting close. That initiates my many trips to the Maple Vineyard, sampling berries, tasting clusters and crunching on brown seeds.

In 2008, after a fairly moderate summer, the end of August and first weeks of September were hot and dry. Sugars in the dry farmed Zinfandel vineyard shot through the roof. In addition to the Twisted Oak Zinfandel block, we pulled additional grapes from "Gene's" and "Jessie's" blocks. My sampling showed the sugars were there and the fruit tasted really good. In the tank, after five days of cold maceration, we had a soak up to 30 brix. It was clear that this Zinfandel was going to be stellar.

THE BLEND

91% Maple Vineyard Zinfandel
9% Maple Vineyard Petite Sirah

WINEMAKING

Open Top Tank with Punch Down Fermentation
18 days Skin Contact (5 days Cold Soak)
13 months In Barrel
25% New French Barrel
12% New American Barrel

THE WINE

Lovely deep purple with red hues on the edges define the color intensity of our 2008 Maple Vineyard Zinfandel. In the nose, you can tell that this year's rendition of Zinfandel is going to be promising, with scents of spicy black berry fruits and a hint of mineral earth derived from its Petite Sirah addition. In the mouth, flavors are alive, bright and explosive. This wine wants to dominate! Nothing submissive here. It's a great big luscious Zinfandel that defines greatness from Dry Creek Valley and the Maple Vineyard.

THE STATS

Alcohol: 15.77%
Total Acidity: 7.1 grams/liter
PH: 3.65
Residual Sugar: 0.15%

Winemaker: Kerry G Damskey
Production: 994 Cases
Date of Bottling: December 2009
Retail: \$40/btl