



DUTCHER CROSSING

2007

Maple Vineyard
ZINFANDEL
Dry Creek Valley

THE VARIETIES & VINEYARDS

Our friends, Tom and Tina Maple grow some of the best Zinfandel in the 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, Mataro, 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, they also deliver to us a small amount of Petite Sirah which we ferment separately, and usually add entirely back into the blend before bottling for depth and texture.

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 the Maple Vineyard, we wait until we have 10 to 15% shrivel. While some sort out any raisened berries, we believe that those berries add an important flavor to the ferment. The key in a dry farmed Zinfandel vineyard is achieving the optimum number of raisened berries, while not going overboard. The goal is elegance and refinement of all the flavors possible, including those that come from slight shrivel.

THE BLEND

92% Maple Vineyard Zinfandel
8% Maple Vineyard Petite Sirah

WINEMAKING

4 days cold soak
Yeast: L2226 (A Rhone Valley isolate)
Open Top Tank with Punch Down Fermentation
18 days total maceration
25% New French Oak Barrels
12% New American Oak Barrels
10 months in barrel

THE WINE

A purple rose hue defines this lovely wine's color. In the nose are hints of red fruits, fresh berries and a touch of sweet cedar in the background. There is a very feminine profile with just the slightest orange peel aroma which is quite interesting and unusual, yet very pleasing. On the palate, the flavors are very pretty and elegant, but they are also full and firm with lasting length. This wine is demure at first and then moves to voluptuous as you get to know it.

THE STATS

Alcohol: 14.8%
Total Acidity: 6.6 grams/liter
PH: 3.81
Residual Sugar: 0.01%

Winemakers: Kerry G Damskey, Dan Glover
Production: 1210 Cases
Date of Bottling: December 2008