



2019 Gamba MCM Old Vine Zinfandel Russian River Valley

GROWING SEASON:

2019 was an exceptional winegrowing season in the Russian River Valley AVA. Mild temperatures early in the growing season were ideal for bloom and mild temperatures continued throughout the season, leading to the year's unhurried harvest producing outstanding grapes. Mother Nature also put on a show in 2019, a year bookended by floods in Sonoma County and again with wildfires—fortunately, neither of which had a negative impact on our vineyards. Even though 2019 was filled with twists and turns, we are very excited about our 2019 wines. After record-breaking winter rainfall, a relatively cool spring followed, delaying bud break into late March and early April. Sonoma County experienced late rains into May that benefitted our dry farmed vines that rely on rain water as their only supply of irrigation. This final precipitation of the season was followed by a series of warm, mild days that carried on through September. Mother Nature took a turn during the end of harvest, and temperatures changed dramatically. Our harvest was fortunately complete when the Kincadee fire began, which occurred in a remote northeastern rural area of Sonoma County in late October. We expect the wines of 2019 to be age worthy, with their nicely balanced structure and acidities, exhibiting glorious fruit flavors, strong backbones and gorgeous color.

THE VINEYARD:


The historic Gamba Estate Vineyard, planted in 1900, designated on the label by the Roman numerals MCM, is located in the heart of the Russian River Valley AVA. Our historic vineyard is rare among the limited truly old vine vineyards remaining of original vine plantings brought to the new world by the pioneering immigrants of the turn of the last century. Organically farmed and using only rainwater

for irrigation, the vineyard consistently offers exceptional fruit quality with extremely low yields from our heritage 1900 planting site. The vineyard is cultivated without the use of herbicides or pesticides; a stewardship that has continued over the duration of its life. According to academic and scientific research, the most important consideration above all for a vineyard's success is its location. Due to its unique and highly desirable location, with its well-suited microclimate for Zinfandel, topography, and soils, the Gamba Estate is a rare, historic, and exceptional vineyard site for producing world class Zinfandel. Another consideration of great importance for Zinfandel is vineyard age. Vines acclimate to a site and respond over time according to their environment. Since 1900, foggy mornings, warm days and cool nights have provided exceptional growing conditions at our unique site in the Russian River Valley. We are honored to continue our stewardship and share our wine growing heritage with you.



TASTING NOTES:

The exciting 2019 MCM Gamba Estate Old Vine Zinfandel is a brilliant wine, with bright garnet hues shining in the glass. The aroma offers lush raspberry, rhubarb pie and savory dried herbs. Medium to full in body, the wine explodes with fresh berries, stone fruit and red cherry that are accented with delicious brown spices and an essence of toasty oak. The texture is slightly leathery, yet polished and refined. The wine is focused, compelling, and exquisitely layered, with mouth-watering tannins; a serious and seamless flavor experience from beginning to end. Lifting acidity and mild toasted oak round out the coda of its pleasant, lingering finish. A great wine to enjoy in its youth, or candidate to lay down in the cellar if you have the will power!

 **CELLAR NOTES:** 100% Indigenous yeast fermented Old Vine Zinfandel, 100% Russian River Valley, 50% American oak/ 50% French oak aged 18 mos., from dry farmed, organically grown, hand harvested, double hand-sorted fruit.