



## 2020 Gamba MCM Old Vine Zinfandel

### Russian River Valley

#### GROWING SEASON:

There is no way to sugarcoat the conditions that pushed vines and vintners to the brink during the 2020 vintage. Between the fires, and COVID-19 safety guidelines, stress levels were at all-time highs for winemakers throughout the state.

Fortunately for us, the worst we experienced in terms of the fires was hazy air. The hazy air was caused by old smoke blown into the area from faraway wildfires primarily to the north. Old smoke does not impact grapes in the same manner as fresh heavily smoky air.

Our yields were down due to drought in the early months of the year, as we are dry farmed. Because of the lighter crop, we picked earlier than normal. Earlier picking dates helped us significantly. The wind patterns also matter, and that combined with a Russian River Valley marine layer helped us as well with mitigating smoke. We are happy to report that our quality was not impacted, and we are very excited by the concentration of flavors in this vintage due to the lighter crop.

We feel blessed to have weathered the relentless storm that was 2020. The wines made in 2020 will be unforgettable, for more reasons than one, but it is our hope it is because of your first sip! We believe our Gamba fans will love all our 2020 Sonoma County wines, and we are pleased to share them with you.

#### 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 epic 2020 MCM Gamba Estate Old Vine Zinfandel is a brilliant garnet color. The nose offers an array of stone fruits, cedar, and savory fall spices. Medium to full bodied, the MCM is classic Gamba on the palate. Showing a solid structure and refined texture, the 2020 MCM offers dark berries, a touch of nectarine, Washington cherry compote, and tangy rhubarb, accented with delicious cocoa and brown spices, with just a subtle hint of oak. The wine is satisfying, layered, and enjoyably buoyant, showcasing a proportionate balance of mouth-watering acidity. This is a serious and thought-provoking wine from beginning to end. A great wine to enjoy now, or will reward the patient enophile in the cellar with 5-10 years additional aging.

#### CELLAR NOTES:

100% Indigenous yeast fermented Old Vine Zinfandel, 100% Russian River Valley, 60% American oak 40% French oak aged 17 mos., from dry farmed, organically grown, hand harvested, double hand-sorted fruit.

