



2019 Gamba Messina Vineyard Zinfandel

Fountain Grove District

GROWING SEASON:

2019 was an exceptional winegrowing season in Sonoma County. Mild temperatures early in the growing season acclimated the grapes, with ideal temperatures that continued throughout the season, leading to the year's unhurried harvest producing outstanding grapes. Mother Nature put on a show in 2019, a year bookended by floods in Sonoma County and again with wildfire. Fortunately, neither had a negative impact on our vineyards and 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 was followed by a series of warm, mild days that carried on through September. The result was long hang time for the fruit, and outstanding flavors ready for harvest. The 2019 vintage results were incredible, with deeply colored wine hues, and well-balanced, bright, lively, full-flavored profiles. Mother Nature took another 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. The vintage will certainly be a harvest we will never forget for many reasons including the wildfires, however, all things considered, 2019 was a superior vintage. The 2019's are age worthy, with their nicely balanced structure and acidities. The wines have glorious fruit flavors, strong backbones and gorgeous color.




THE VINEYARD:

Russ and Martha Messina's historic Bastoni ranch vineyard is located in the Fountain Grove District of Sonoma County. The picturesque ranch is thoughtfully tended by Russ, Martha, and their dedicated team. Martha's grandparents, Pasquale and Maria Bastoni founded the original vineyards on Riebli road back in 1905. The source block for this wine is located at the top of the hill of the south ranch, in the heart of the beautiful Fountain-grove District straddling Napa and Sonoma counties. This magical site with its rocky and gravelly volcanic soils and wonderful microclimate is planted to the famed St. Peter's Church clone. The hilltop block struggles for water in the rocky ancient volcanic ash, producing limited yields. Bathed in sunlight, the vines achieve optimal maturity resulting in evenly ripened, rich and intense high-quality fruit.

TASTING NOTES:

The 2019 offering of the Messina Zinfandel shows off a brilliant dark garnet hue. With a swirl, notes of dark plum, brown spices and vanilla emerge in the nose. The wine fans out on the palate with its round and polished texture, bursting in the mouth with an array of stone fruits and berries that fill the senses, finishing with leather and subtle woody tones. The wine is medium to full in body, balanced with a proportionate acidity, lifting the wine and highlighting the youthful freshness of the fruit. Enjoy now in its lovely fruit driven youth, however patience will be rewarded as the wine develops with cellar aging over the next 5-7 years. Thank you for enjoying Gamba wines with family and friends!

 **CELLAR NOTES:** 100% Indigenous yeast fermented Zinfandel, 100% FGD, 80% American oak / 20% French oak aged 18 mos., organically grown, hand harvested, double hand-sorted fruit.