



## 2019 Gamba Starr Road Ranch Zinfandel

### Russian River Valley

**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. This led to the year's unhurried harvest, producing outstanding grapes. Mother Nature put on a show in 2019, a year book-ended 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. 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 resulted in wines of incredible, deeply colored hues, and well-balanced, bright, lively, full-flavored profiles. Mother Nature took another turn during the end of harvest, and temperatures changed dramatically. We were notified of our first red flag warning where temperatures were warming, the humidity was incredibly low and the winds are dangerously high. 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 definitely be a harvest we will never forget for many reasons including the wildfires, however, all things considered, 2019 was a superior vintage.

We expect the wines of 2019 to be age worthy, with their nicely balanced structure and acidities. The wines have glorious fruit flavors, strong backbones and gorgeous color. We hope you will enjoy sharing them with family and friends as much as we enjoyed making them!

**THE VINEYARD:** The historic Starr Road Ranch is a century old vineyard located in the beautiful foothills of the Russian River Valley AVA. The vineyard is organically grown and dry farmed, offering exceptional fruit quality with extremely low yields from this heritage 1920 original planting site. It is cultivated without the use of herbicides or pesticides and relies on winter rains as its sole source of irrigation, as it has for the past 100 years. Foggy mornings, warm days and cool nights provide ideal growing conditions at this exceptional vineyard site in the Russian River Valley. This treasured old vine vineyard consistently produces intense benchmark wines, bold yet refined in character, year after year, praised and sought after by producers, wine lovers, and collectors alike.

**TASTING NOTES:** The 2019 Starr Road Old Vine Zinfandel offers a beautiful deep garnet color in the bowl of the glass, with a lush, creamy and dark berry note on the nose, with a hint of black tea and exotic spices. Notes of cola, leather, vanilla and black fruits fill the senses, and round the wine's feel on the palate. A refined and compelling polished texture is complemented with a bright yet proportional acidity that delicately lifts and balances the wine. The pleasant spicy finish lingers on the palate, woven with a fine texture of subtle woody tones.



**NOTES:** 100% Indigenous yeast fermented Old Vine Zinfandel, 100% Russian River Valley, 80% American oak / 20% French oak aged 18 mos., from dry farmed, organically grown, hand harvested, double hand-sorted fruit.