



2021 BASTONI VINEYARD ZINFANDEL



Winemaker's Description: The wine is bright and lively with concentrated "Zini" aromas, predominant dark cherry, blueberry, and plums, and some of the typical raisins aromas. The fine oak barrel aging brings subtle aromas of vanilla, brown sugar, cinnamon, and slight toast and smokiness. The mouthfeel is solid, with a medium body and very soft and elegant tannins, accentuating the wine's long and juicy finish. Zinfandels, when balanced, are very versatile food pairing wines with a broad range, and this wine will satisfy your palate with many of your favorite dishes. The wine is delicious now, but it will be even better with some patience and proper aging in 2-5 years.

The Vineyard: Originally planted by Martha's grandparents, Pasquale & Maria Bastoni, in 1906, she and her husband, Russ Messana, now cultivate 35 acres of vines. After a century of growing Zinfandel, Palomino, Petite Sirah, Alicante Bouschet and Carignane, the vineyard had to be replanted in 2005 when yields became too low to maintain. Her grandfather and father sold their fruit to various wineries, including Italian Swiss Colony, Charles Krug, and Geyser Peak. Currently planted with Zinfandel, Petite Sirah, and Alicante Bouschet, the Messana's maintain a family tradition of farming and community in the Fountaingrove District AVA just east of Santa Rosa.

The Vintage: The 2021 harvest year was near perfect for growing grapes and a second year of a lighter-than-normal crop. The berry size was smaller than average, delivering exceptional flavors, intense color, and beautiful grapes—fruit-forward and ripe. The season started early and cold, and it was free of long, lingering heatwaves, leading to relatively early to normal harvest dates with most grapes ripening simultaneously.

Winemaking: The fruit was gently handled, hand sorted, and fermented in small open-top fermenters with minimum hand punch-downs daily. As usual the most effort was in extracting as much of the beautiful Zin aromas without the harsh tannins. The malolactic fermentation was done in barrels; aging was done in 20% new European oak barrels for about 17 months.

APPELLATION: Fountaingrove District
HARVEST DATE: October 3rd, 2021
BRIX: 26.5°
BLEND: 100% Zinfandel

BARREL AGING: 20 months in 30% new French oak
BOTTLED: March 10th, 2023
PRODUCTION: 301, 12x750 ml/cases
ALCOHOL: 15.5%; **TA:** 6.5G/L; **pH:** 3.9; **RS:** 0.3%