

Davis Family Vineyards

2003 Russian River Valley Old Vine Zinfandel

Almost all of you have children, so you have experienced or are currently experiencing the joys paid to you after years of nurturing. When children are very young you give all your love and attention to their every need, never looking for anything in return...then one day you realize that all that nurturing has been transformed into a glowing, wonderful, confident personality...you have loved them and appreciated them since infancy but then one day, without asking or expecting anything more, you notice that a wonderful new character has evolved.

The same seems true with this wine. Even though these old Zinfandel vines were planted in 1896, they had been abandoned for a dozen years when we bought this property and began to nurture them back into production and restore their dignity.

Although I have loved the wines (as have the wine critics) since my first vintage with them, which was three years after we began their renaissance, I see a real shift in personality and character with this 2003 vintage. The berry flavors seem richer without losing balance, the textures are even more lush than I thought possible, the spice is even more pronounced - a wonderful new character - confident and complex - has evolved in the wines following about 10 years of nurturing!

I am so proud and excited for all of you that have followed and been fans of this wine over these past few years to meet our newest addition! Unfortunately as with all great things in life, as is always true with our Old Vine Zinfandel, **there is very little of it made** so cherish it!

Only our **Friends of the Family** wine club members get to enjoy it this year.

Many of you have called to check on us after seeing the flooding of the Russian River on the news - Thanks for your concern! We received 12 inches of rain in 5 days between Christmas and New Years, after having seen about 10 inches already in December...we weren't dreaming of a wet Christmas - but we got one anyway! As the sun has reappeared - our steep hillside vineyards drained well, our grassy cover-crop kept erosion from occurring, and the Russian River at our winery site came 2 feet from cresting the banks and then receded back to its normal winter level about 20 feet below the picnic area - whew!

But the best news relates to this 110 year-old Zinfandel vineyard...it is all dry-farmed, meaning the only irrigation it gets is from these winter storms; so it is currently drinking up the rains as they help carry the organic nutrients to the deep, deep roots - aiding in our nurturing and adding more character to our "kids"!

*Note: In keeping with my philosophy of crafting the wines in the vineyard and being as gentle as possible in the winery, I have bottled this beauty **without** filtration so you may see sediment at the top or the bottom of the bottle. It is just natural, organic grape solids.*

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