



FROG'S LEAP

2020 ZINFANDEL MOLINARI VINEYARD BALDOCHI BLOCK ST HELENA NAPA VALLEY



A BRIEF HISTORY

Six generations of the Molinari family have lived on, farmed, and made wine from their family's vineyard, nestled against the southern flank of St. Helena, in the heart of the Napa Valley. Indeed, the abandoned winery on the property, with equipment dating to the 1870s, bears witness to the many pairs of hands that have grown grapes and made wine from this ranch. Now just a short walk from downtown St. Helena, its gravel-rich alluvial soils place it squarely in the "gold coast" of historical Zinfandel production in Napa Valley. In recognition of this history, the vineyard was planted to three heritage clones of Zinfandel: Baldochi, Cuneo, and Dickerson—as well as a small section of Petite Sirah, the classic compatriot of California's great Zinfandel wines. This careful selection of 20 barrels honors our long association and deep friendship with the Molinari family, with one of Napa's "first families" of wine—each year, we count our blessings to be the ones now privileged to make the wine from this site.

ABOUT THE WINE

Each year, the Molinari Zinfandel is one of our biggest and boldest lots of Zin. At the same time, the inherent balance and elegance of the wines make them a great ambassador of the Frog's Leap style. We love to select special wines from one of the heritage clones at Molinari. Sometimes the wild opulence of the Dickerson shows best, while other times the firm, mineral texture of the Cuneo rises to the top. In 2020, the distinctive freshness and floral lift of the Baldochi vines impressed us the most. Exuberant, brambly red fruit, bright acidity and spice notes give balance and complexity to a vintage marked by intense heat during harvest, and provide a perfect accompaniment to food. I'll be enjoying the wine with some grilled lamb chops and cold tomato salad this summer. RW

THE BLEND

90% Zinfandel
10% Petite Sirah

VINES

100% Molinari Vineyard, Baldochi block, St. Helena. Planted 2005, organically certified and dry farmed in the gravelly loams of the Bale and Yolo series

STATISTICS

harvested: August 25th
harvest chemistry: 26.0° brix, 7.1g/L total acidity, 3.51pH
final chemistry: 14.9% alcohol, 6.03g/L total acidity, 3.77pH
bottled November 23 2021
608 cases produced

A note on 2020: this lot was picked well before the devastating Glass fire that struck on September 28th

WINEMAKERS

John Williams
Rory Williams
Pablo Polanco

VINEYARDISTS

Frank Leeds
Pete Molinari

BALANCE, RESTRAINT AND DEEP RESPECT FOR THE NATURAL EXPRESSION OF THE VINE