



FROG'S LEAP

2017 HERITAGE BLEND

Napa Valley

THE BLEND

48% Charbono
27% Petite sirah
9% Carignane
7% Napa Gamay
4% Mondeuse
4% Mourvèdre
1% Riesling

RELEASE DATE

May 2019

STATISTICS

harvested —
August 31 and September 16
21.8° brix at harvest
12.8% alcohol
5.3 g/L total acidity
3.66 pH
aged 6 months in French oak;
6 months in 50/50 French oak
and concrete cubes

WINEMAKERS

John Williams
Paula Moschetti
Rory Williams

VINEYARDIST

Frank Leeds

A BRIEF HISTORY

One of the most interesting and characteristic aspects of growing grapes and making wine in California is the presence of so-called “field blends”—wines made from several different, often obscure, varieties that have been interplanted in the same field or alongside one another. The specific makeup of varieties is often unique to a given site, and these wines are living, delicious connections to the land where the vines are grown. The purchase of the historic Rossi Vineyard on Rutherford’s western bench in 2007 gave us the opportunity to draw this connection. Surrounding the Cabernet Sauvignon and Sauvignon Blanc at Rossi were planted some older, historic varieties. We decided not only to preserve as much of these as possible, but to augment those blocks with other historic varieties: Charbono, Mondeuse, Mourvèdre, Carignane. The now fully-planted Heritage block sits in front of the iconic water tower, and is a profound symbol of our link to previous generations of winegrowers, as well as a reminder of our responsibility as stewards of the land.

The most interesting wines in the world tell a story: the story of this wine is the celebration of the history we share with the Rossi family and its 99 year history of farming in Rutherford.

ABOUT THE WINE

Two new varieties have fully joined the party with the 2017 vintage. First Mourvèdre, the classic grape of France’s Bandol region, has been grown in California since the 1870s, where it is often called Mataro. The second variety, Mondeuse, is less well known but shares a similar history in California, with plantings in Napa itself reaching back to the 19th century, when it was known as Crabb’s Black Burgundy.

Both varieties add significant depth to the blend in the form of rich flavors and deep color. Mondeuse in particular adds great acidity, enhancing the ageability of this wine. Recently paired at the winery with a classic cassoulet, the wine was the hit of the party.