



2018 Gamba Vineyards and Winery

Gamba Estate Vineyard MCM Zinfandel, Russian River Valley

THE VINTAGE: The 2018 vintage began with cool temperatures during the early season in the Russian River Valley AVA. As we approached summer, the weather soon brought moderate temperatures, offering a long and steady growing season. The exceptional conditions during the growing season lead to an ideal harvest of high quality, perfectly ripened fruit, resulting in outstanding wines.

The cool spring extended the 2018 bloom period, a critical time of year for growers, as the success of bloom determines our crop size and initial quality. We enjoyed a successful bloom period, although there were some small weather events in the North Bay, but thankfully most of Russian River Valley was not affected, and flowering and fruit set was ideal in our vineyards.

Summer temperatures were moderate with fewer heat spikes than in recent years. There was a brief heat spike in June, however a cooling trend followed in July and again slowed ripening. August was very foggy and offered cool mornings where the sun didn't peek through the marine layer until mid-day, maintaining a slow and steady ripening and maturation process. The cooler weather extended the season a full two to three weeks longer than average. The days of September had long, cool mornings and moderately warm afternoons, increasing hang time, allowing the grapes to develop more intense flavors. As grapes slowly ripen and further mature, the varietal aroma, mid palate and depth of fruit are concentrated. The smaller berries in our Zinfandel vineyards develop a very intense level of mouth filling dark fruit flavors and desirable mature tannins in the wine. The weather was glorious throughout October, with cool, foggy mornings, sunny days and moderate heat. At harvest, the clusters were small, dark, perfectly ripened, with ample acidity, and intensely flavorful.

To sum it up, 2018 was an exceptional vintage. The quality of the clusters, the flavorful juice and the proportionate amount of natural acidity produced some stunning wines. The 2018 wines are showing great structure and deep concentration. We tasted the quality in the cellar early on, with the wines showing fully mature and sweet tannins, outstanding color, lively acidity, and a gorgeous depth of flavors in tank prior to barreling down.

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.

The 2018 wines are naturally and beautifully balanced. They are fruit-driven, with a very good sense of place, structure and complexity, showing a wonderful focus from all our vineyard sites.

THE VINEYARD: The historic Gamba Estate Vineyard site, planted in 1900, is located in the heart of the Russian River Valley AVA. Our historic vineyard is among a very few vineyards remaining of original plantings by the pioneering immigrants of the turn of the last century. Organically farmed and using only rainwater for irrigation, the vineyard consistently offers exceptional fruit quality with extremely low yields from this heritage 1900 original planting. The vineyard 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 120 years. Foggy mornings, warm days and cool nights provide ideal growing conditions at our exceptional site in the Russian River Valley. This treasured old vine vineyard consistently produces intense benchmark grapes, bold yet refined in character, year after year. We are honored to continue our wine growing heritage, to farm and care for this legendary vineyard, and produce limited production wines for you to share with your family and friends.

TASTING NOTES: The milestone year of 2020 represents the 120th year of the Gamba Estate Vineyard, planted in 1900, thus the Roman numeral MCM (1900) designation. This special wine celebrates this landmark anniversary. Our 2018 Estate MCM Old Vine Zinfandel shows off a nearly opaque, beautiful, deep garnet color in the glass. The aroma offers a compelling wide range of dark berries, notes of anise, cream and brown spices. Medium to full in body, the wine is elegant with a polished feel, yet robust with a subtle, pleasant leathery texture. Nicely

balanced on the palate, the wine shows mouth filling rich dark fruits, cedar and savory spices. A proportionate acidity lifts and brightens the dark mid palate fruit, adding freshness on the palate. The delicious dark fruit flavors linger on the enjoyable finish. This classic Old Vine Zinfandel deserves a special place in your cellar. Delicious in its youth and enjoyable now but will continue to evolve beautifully with time and reward the patient enophile with age in the cellar.

