

ANCIENT PEAKS

2020 | ZINFANDEL

PASO ROBLES, CALIFORNIA | SANTA MARGARITA RANCH



OVERVIEW

Our estate Margarita Vineyard has become renowned for producing one of Paso Robles' most acclaimed Zinfandels. Here, amid one of the region's coolest growing environments, the Zinfandel grape achieves a rare balance of robust flavors and elegant structure. Zinfandel has been a cornerstone variety of Paso Robles for more than 100 years, and we are proud to feature it in our small family of wines.

VINEYARD

The 2020 Zinfandel comes from five separate blocks, with each contributing to a larger sense of character and complexity in the finished wine. Block 49D sets the tone with jammy dark fruit flavors derived from hilltop exposures, while Block 32 contributes a dimension of bright red fruits and spice. Blocks 39 and 48 split the difference between red and black fruits with their own spicy nuances. Margarita Vineyard stands alone as the southernmost vineyard in the Paso Robles region, nestled into the rugged Santa Lucia Mountain range just 14 miles from the Pacific Ocean in the Santa Margarita Ranch AVA. The mountain peaks act as a gateway for cool marine air, resulting in an extended growing season that yields fruit with uncommon depth and structure. The peaks are also testaments to the tectonic forces that created Margarita Vineyard's rare diversity of soils, ultimately fostering natural complexity in our wines.

WINEMAKING

We aim to produce a Zinfandel that faithfully reflects the terroir of Margarita Vineyard, balancing varietal richness with an elevated sense of elegance and spice. The 2020 growing season was marked by a mild spring and summer, punctuated by two late-summer heat waves that accelerated the pace of ripening into harvest—all coming together to provide a banner vintage for our Zinfandel fruit. Prior to fermentation, the separate lots were cold soaked for 48 hours for a soft extraction of flavor and color. After fermentation and light pressing, these lots were racked to a combination of French and American oak barrels (20% new oak), where they aged for 18 months prior to blending and bottling. The barrels were minimally racked during aging to preserve varietal aromatics. A small lot of Syrah from Margarita Vineyard was incorporated into the final blend for added mixed berry character and enhanced complexity.

TASTING NOTES

The 2020 Zinfandel makes an immediate statement with bright, jammy aromas of raspberry, cinnamon spice and vanilla cream. Luscious, rounded flavors of red cherry, raspberry and blackberry unfold across a beautifully weighted mouthfeel, all underpinned by deeper hints of roast coffee and black pepper. Smooth, juicy acidity brings impressive balance to a uniquely elegant finish.

CUISINE PAIRING

The stunning varietal elegance of the 2020 Zinfandel makes it a versatile wine with food. Recommended pairings include grilled lamb chops, vegetarian flatbread, Italian sausage, and black pepper and parmesan spaghetti.

VINEYARD:

Margarita Vineyard

SOIL TYPE:

Volcanic
Shale
Rocky Alluvium

VARIETAL COMPOSITION:

Zinfandel (86%)
Syrah (14%)

HARVEST DATES:

September 29 (Block 32)
October 10 (Blocks 39, 48 and 49D)

AGING REGIMEN:

18 months in French and American oak barrels

FINAL ANALYSIS:

Alcohol: 14.1%
pH: 3.98
TA: .67

CASES

PRODUCED:
5,701



ZINFANDEL

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