



ABOUT THE VINEYARD...

A two acre vineyard in the southwestern corner of the appellation, only nominally protected by the coastal hills and open to the maritime influence of the Pacific Ocean, is the single source for these grapes. The soils here are sandy loam and very well drained, typical for the Russian River Valley. The cooler sections of Russian River, near Sebastopol, are known for producing explosive and aromatic fruit flavors balanced with lively acidity and earthy aromas. All seventeen rows are planted with Dijon 115 clone, which tend to add perfumed aromas and light spice notes to the lush fruitiness derived from the soils.

ABOUT THE VINTAGE...

The 2019 growing season provided the third year in a row of generous and well timed winter moisture. The result was very nice growth with well balanced vines free of excess stress. This is what we are always after, a happy vine dedicated to its fruit results in the most flavorful wine in general. We saw few heat spikes but adequate warmth in the season to produce fully ripe fruit. We consider the 2019 vintage to be an exceptional one with all the makings of wines to be enjoyed at release as well as over the long term. It there was any downside, the crop was on the lower side of yield.

ABOUT THE WINE...

We fermented in our one ton, open-top tanks, layering the bottom 25% of each tank with whole clusters of fruit, adding structure and spice notes to the back palate and balancing the otherwise plush fruit of Gilbert's Vineyard. A warm fermentation with a combination of native and isolated Burgundian yeasts produced excellent and focused flavor extraction, complemented with traditional punch-downs by hand. The wine was aged entirely in Francois Freres cooperage, half new, and racked once, gently, prior to bottling. Grapes, must, and wines were moved using gravity through to the barrel and using inert gas through racking and bottling. 247 cases produced.

TASTING NOTES...

A deeper, earthier expression of this vineyard upon release. Brambly black cherry, allspice, hints of earth mingle with the usual notes strawberry and pie cherry. The palate is broad and giving, showing early complexity which echos the fruit notes and is accompanied by sweet vanillin, toasted hazelnut, tea, herbs and coffee as an introduction to this joyfully juicy blend of rich fruit and earthy spice. Sassafras, herbal notes and baking spices are revealed in the satisfying finish.