

Stuhlmuller Vineyard

Stuhlmuller Vineyards 2013 Stuhlmuller Vineyards Alexander Valley Estate Zinfandel

Proprietor Fritz Stuhlmuller
Winemaker Leo Hansen

Vineyards Stuhlmuller Vineyards is located at the southern edge of the Alexander Valley, where it converges with two other highly regarded Sonoma County appellations, Chalk Hill and the Russian River Valley. On its eastern edge, the 150-acre vineyard borders the Russian River. Situated in a unique location that is part river benchlands and part hillside, the vineyard benefits from its alluvial gravel soils and the more rocky soils that comprise the hillside sections of the vineyard.

The Clones At Stuhlmuller, two special blocks have been set aside for growing small amounts of exceptional Zinfandel and Petite Sirah. These vines are head pruned to augment the natural intensity of the hillside fruit. The budwood for this Zinfandel came from the prized 115-year-old Teldeschi clone, a legendary selection from Dry Creek Valley.

The Vintage 2013 was a classic California growing season, and the second exceptional vintage in a row. While both flowering and veraison came early and fast, with mostly moderate temperatures, and only a couple of modest heat spikes during the summer, everything ripened very evenly. A combination of plenty of cool foggy mornings and afternoon sunshine, combined with big swings between day and nighttime temperatures produced perfectly ripe fruit with excellent natural acidity.

Winemaking Our Zinfandel and Petite Sirah were co-fermented as 100% whole berries in open-top tanks, where they spent 15 days on the skins. Aging was done in a mixture of French (50%) and American (50%) oak barrels, with 18% new oak overall. The wine was racked twice and spent 16 months in barrel.

The Wine Vibrant, rich and ripe, this wine explodes from the glass with a medley of black raspberry, wild strawberry, sweet tobacco and vanilla aromas, as well as more savory hints of dried herbs and smoke. On the lush, velvety palate, fine-grained tannins and a bright, fresh quality support flavors of cherries and cream.

Technical Notes

Alcohol:	14.6%
pH:	3.75
Composition:	90% Zinfandel, 10% Petite Sirah
Total Acidity:	6.3 g/l
Production:	600 cases
Release Date:	Winter 2016
Bottled: :	February 2015