



Stuhlmuller Vineyards

2014 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 In 2014, a very mild winter and spring resulted in early budbreak and bloom. While drought conditions continued in 2014, some extremely well-timed spring rains helped achieve a good moisture profile in our estate soils, and contributed to exceptional quality fruit. While everything happened earlier in 2014, a good size crop slowed the overall pace of ripening, ultimately providing approximately the same amount of hangtime as a normal year, but with the fruit coming into the winery well in advance of any fall rains.

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 25% new oak overall. The wine was racked twice and spent 16 months in barrel.

The Wine From its lush, brambly character to its alluring layers of black cherry, boysenberry and dark plum, this is a classic expression of Zinfandel. On the palate, the vibrant fruit flavors are underscored by notes of vanilla, spice and sweet tobacco leaf. While the texture is supple and creamy, good acidity keeps the flavors lively, while carrying the wine to long, bright finish.

Technical Notes

Alcohol:	14.2%
pH:	3.71
Composition:	82% Zinfandel, 18% Petite Sirah
Total Acidity:	6.4 g/l
Production:	505 cases
Release Date:	Fall 2016
Bottled:	January 2016