

2016 PALACHCHAK ZINFANDEL

Palachchak (pronounced “pah-laht-chahk”) is the Coast Miwok word for the California Acorn Woodpecker. The bird is named for its ability to drill holes with its beak into trees or softwood (houses or posts) and place the acorn into the hole for food later on in winter and spring.

As for the wine, we do a similar approach by carefully identifying the best lots of zinfandel and syrah after their initial aging. We blend those lots and return the wine back to all neutral French oak barrels for additional aging. The extended aging (24 months) allows for the full integration of the blend as well as further softening of the grape and oak tannins. Once the wine is bottled, it ages for an additional 2-3 years before it's ready for release—upwards of 5 years of aging! This results in a full-bodied wine that reigns with explosive fruit and structure but with a smooth, velvety finish. Expect this wine to age gracefully well past 10 years after its vintage date.

The 2016 vintage experienced hot weather in July and August but cooled in September. Harvest was normal in mid-September with a normal-sized crop. While not as hot as 2015, the continued drought conditions stressed the vines and kept yields below historic norms for this century-plus vineyard. The wine averaged 14 days of skin contact before being pressed out. The wine aged for a full 24 months in 40% new American & French oak barrels. 65% Picnic Hill Vineyard Zinfandel, 25% Alitia Vineyard Zinfandel, 10% Winddance Farms Syrah

Story Winery Alitia Vineyard (Zinfandel) - planted c.1984. Dry-farmed, head-pruned, organic. Planted on 'Sierra soil' (primarily, deep decomposed granite, forming sandy loam, well drained), east-west orientation.

Story Vineyards Picnic Hill Vineyard (Zinfandel) - planted c.1896. Dry-farmed, head-pruned, on original rootstock. Planted on 'Sierra soil' (primarily, deep decomposed granite, forming sandy loam, well drained), east-west orientation.

Winddance Farms Vineyard (Syrah) - planted c. 2002. Trellised VSP (Vertical Shoot Position), irrigated. Planted on Aiken soil, (primarily, well drained volcanic soil with deeper clay loam base), north-south orientation.

Aromas of ripe cherries, nutmeg, dark chocolate, followed by intense cedar, tobacco leaf, and a hint of black pepper. Flavors of raspberries, cocoa, and cola explode yet, are constrained by structured tannins and oak leading to a long linear finish.

Photo courtesy of Steve Zamek

Winemaker: Rob Campbell

Varietal: 90% Zinfandel/10% Syrah

Appellation: California Shenandoah Valley

Vineyard Designation: Picnic Hill, Alitia, Winddance Farms

Acid: 5.8 g/L

pH: 3.64

Aging: 24 months

Alcohol %: 15.5

Cases: 125

SRP: \$50.00

Winery: 'Meyye' (pronounced "may-yay") is the Coast Miwok word for bird, and we pay homage to several native bird species located throughout Sonoma County. Each label celebrates a specific bird in a symbolic way that you can read about in each wine's description. Our wines' names honor and celebrate our Coast Miwok language—a language that has been spoken by my people for eons in California.

Where to taste: Virtually by reservation on the website