



## 2018 FEARLESS RED

### SONOMA COUNTY

- Release Date:** April 2021
- Production:** 20 Barrels
- Varietal:** 50% Zinfandel, 20% Syrah, 13% Malbec, 7% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon & 3% Pinot Noir
- Vineyards:** LeVois-Dry Creek Valley, Kick Ranch-Fountaingrove District, Calla Lily-Pope Valley, Farella-Coombsville & Bricoleur-Russian River Valley
- Winemaking:** Justin and Seana Stephens, Proprietors  
Kirk Venge, Winemaker
- Cooperage:** Aged for 18 months in both French and American oak, 30% new.
- Vintage Notes:** As vintages go, 2018 was joyously tranquil. From the start in early February and through the mild weather of the Spring flowering season, nature cooperated in exactly the ways desired for an ideal grape set. As summer progressed, we saw relatively few heat spikes and slow, but steady progress in the vineyards which lead to extended hang times. While calm, 2018 was a marathon for winemaking as it required extended focus on the needs of each individual vineyard site well beyond the average year. Happily, this attention was rewarded with beautiful wines across our portfolio.
- Wine Notes:** In 2007 when we were still a very new winery, we had the opportunity to source Syrah from a friend, and while we knew the vineyard to be excellent, Syrah was new territory. That said, it is best to take opportunities when they are offered, so we took the plunge and then held our breath. Those familiar with the 2007 vintage will know that what we had was excellent, but also abundant! So, we took some of that plentiful Syrah and built a blend alongside Zinfandel and Petite Syrah. This was the first production of Fearless Red and ever since we have continued this tradition of making a fun and delicious blend using non-standard varietals from tiny vineyards across Napa and Sonoma counties.
- Tasting Notes:** The aromas are pure enjoyment with dense, brambled red and blue fruit notes ever present. On the palate a blueberry, cherry and boysenberry ensemble is joined by hints of licorice, cured meat and delicate herbals. The finish is smooth with a touch of pepper.
- Aging Advice:** The Fearless Red is made to be enjoyed readily and often, especially with friends. With a blend of this nature there is great joy to be found while it is still quite young, though never hesitate to also set a few bottles down as with age comes additional refinement and this wine will easily improve for 5+ years.