



## 2021 FEARLESS RED

### NAPA VALLEY

- Release Date:** April, 2022
- Production:** 9 Barrels
- Varietal:** 59% Zinfandel, 15% Merlot, 11% Petite Sirah 8% Cabernet Sauvignon & 7% Malbec
- Vineyards:** Luvisi-Calistoga, LeVois-Dry Creek Valley, Sugarloaf-Napa Valley, Oso-Howell Mtn & Calla Lily-Pope 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:** The 2021 vintage will be remembered as a drought year for the valley, with the resulting drop in yields, however the overall quality of the vintage is superb thanks to those smaller berries bringing an increased concentration of both fruit and structure. Early spring saw periods of unseasonable warmth alongside the occasional cool night which did create some frost concerns, but thankfully a little vigilance in the vineyards kept any damage at bay. Summer and early fall provided heat that cycled predictably between warming days and cooling nights which allowed for a very smooth and orderly harvest season about 1-2 weeks earlier than average.
- 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 Sirah. This was the first production of Fearless Red and ever since we have continued this tradition of making a fun, delicious and unique blend sourcing grapes from tiny vineyards across Napa and Sonoma counties.
- Tasting Notes:** On the nose, rich zin driven brambled red and black fruit notes abound alongside subtle hints of violet, clove and graphite. Flavors of raspberry and blueberry are well framed on the palate, paired with fine oak tannin derived cocoa, nutmeg and vanilla notes concluding in a generous and well framed finish.
- 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.