



## 2019 FEARLESS RED

SONOMA COUNTY

- Release Date:** April, 2022
- Production:** 16 Barrels
- Varietal:** 51% Syrah, 26% Zinfandel, 12% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon & 3% Malbec
- Vineyards:** Kick Ranch-Fountaingrove District, LeVois-Dry Creek Valley, Farella-Coombsville & 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:** 2019 as a vintage was full of unique and unexpected character. A cool spring and late rains well into May had us on edge as we nervously kept vigil against frost and shatter in the vineyards, fearing a repeat of the unseasonably cool 2011 vintage. Thankfully, summer arrived with its desired warmth, but with the harshest heat held at bay, allowing for a long, warm, and even ripening season. This was especially appreciated along the eastern side of the valley where the late afternoon sun lingers longest, and heat spikes are most perilous.
- 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:** The aroma is full of rich Zin-like brambly raspberry and blackberry notes which harmonize nicely with the archetypal Syrah blue fruit as well as more subtle hints of cured meat, clove, and vanilla. The palate is instantly welcoming, with a medley of mixed berries taking center stage and carrying the light mid-palate acidity to a finish of delicate flinty tannins and lingering notes of cherry liqueur, anise, cocoa dust and fine oak.
- 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.