

Cline Cellars Nancy's Vines Zinfandel

Cline Cellars is a family-owned vineyard and winery in Sonoma's Carneros Valley. Established in 1982 by Fred Cline, a descendant of Italian US settlers, he originally founded the winery in Oakley, Contra Costa County, cultivating Rhône varieties and Zinfandel on vines dating back to 1906. In the 1990s, the family moved their winemaking operation to a 350 acre ranch in Carneros Valley, adopting sustainable farming in 2000, and building the largest solar panelled winery in California. While others in California were focusing on Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay, Fred Cline saw the potential of Rhône varieties and Zinfandel in his vineyards and continues to produce focussed, terroir-driven wines.

The Nancy's Vines Zinfandel draws primarily from a wide selection of the oldest, most historic and shyest-bearing Zinfandel blocks in Contra Costa County which make up 92% of this blend.. The remainder of the blend is selected from prized vineyards in Lodi County and is 4% Petite Sirah, 2% Carignan and 2% Syrah.

The grapes underwent gentle crushing to ensure a large percentage of whole berries in the must - contributing to the explosive fruit character of the wine and were then fermented in temperature controlled stainless steel tanks at the optimum temperature to extract rich flavours and provide excellent colour. The wines were aged in American oak for 7 months - approximately 35% new.

On the nose there is ripe, wild strawberries with coffee and chocolate characters, followed on the palate by ripe vanilla laced fruit combined with soft tannins and a lovely balanced acidity. Very more-ish and surprisingly elegant.

Accompany this wine with slow cooked BBQ pork, chicken or spinach mushroom casserole.

Producer: Cline Cellars

Winemaker: Charlie Tsegeletos

Country of origin: USA

Region of Origin: California (Contra Costa County)

Grapes: 100% Zinfandel

ABV: 15.0%

Closure type: cork

