

NINER

WINE ESTATES

2022 ZINFANDEL

Heart Hill, Paso Robles

WINEMAKER

Patrick Muran

CLONE

Ueberroth

ROOTSTOCK

Self

HARVEST DATE

September 8, 2022

AVERAGE BRIX

25°

AVERAGE YIELD

1.5 Tons/Acre

pH / TA

3.70/6.1 g/L

ALCOHOL

14.5%

VINEYARD

100% Heart Hill

BLEND

95% Zinfandel
5% Cabernet Sauvignon

COOPERAGE

10% New French Oak

BARREL AGING

10 months



VINEYARD

The 2022 vintage will likely go down as one of the most challenging vintages in the last 20 years. It was our third year of drought and we had a dry winter followed by a cool spring and moderate summer. However, an intense 10-day heatwave in August accelerated ripening and led to an early harvest where many varieties ripened at the same time. Harvest began on September 1, 2022 and finished on September 23, 2022, making for our earliest and fastest harvest since 2009. We farm 8 acres of the Ueberroth Zinfandel clone that are self-rooted and planted in 2002. We harvested all of it on September 8, 2022.

WINEMAKING

There are two defining qualities that we love in our Heart Hill Vineyard Zinfandel: vibrant fruit and spice. In 2022, we embraced both and cultivated them by dividing the grapes into two distinct lots with specialized fermentation and aging techniques. To preserve and enhance the wine's fresh fruit character, we fermented one lot in stainless steel at low temperatures over an extended period, and then aged it in French oak barrels. This imparted a silky texture along with subtle notes of coffee and chocolate. For the second lot we wanted to amplify the spice components. Fermentation was warmer and faster, aided by a yeast traditionally used in Barolo winemaking, known for elevating spice characteristics. Aging in Hungarian oak introduced layers of baking spice, adding depth and complexity. On both lots we kept new oak exposure minimal (just 10%) to maintain a balanced expression of the fruit. After 10 months of separate aging, we blended the two lots, resulting in a beautifully nuanced expression of Heart Hill Zinfandel. The wine opens with an alluring spice-laced bouquet, leading into a palate bursting with black cherry and dried cranberry, seamlessly woven with notes of cardamom, oregano, and sage.