

NINER

WINE ESTATES

2023

ZINFANDEL

Heart Hill Vineyard, Willow Creek District of Paso Robles

WINEMAKER

Patrick Muran

CLONE

Ueberroth

ROOTSTOCK

Own

HARVEST DATE

October 4, 2023

AVERAGE BRIX

25.7°

AVERAGE YIELD

2.5 Tons/Acre

pH / TA

3.73/6 g/L

ALCOHOL

14.8%

VINEYARD

100% Heart Hill Vineyard

BLEND

100% Zinfandel

COOPERAGE

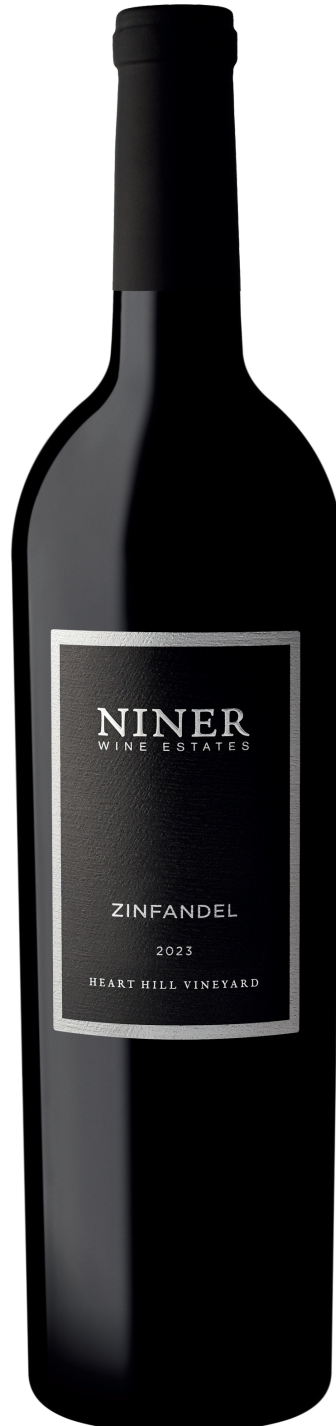
14% New French Oak,
Neutral Puncheons + 30HL Cask

BARREL AGING

10 months

CASES PRODUCED

727



VINEYARD

The 2023 vintage was long and cool and has been hailed by many local growers as one of the best vintages of the decade. The growing season started with a definitive end to three years of drought. We received 28 inches of rain over the winter with a series of storms that caused memorable flooding in the county. A cool spring delayed bud break across all varieties and was followed by a foggy and temperate summer with very few days above 80 degrees. Our head-trained Zinfandel vines are over 25 years old. In cooler vintages like 2023, the slower pace of ripening allows for even development in the grapes and makes it easier for us to pick when flavor, structure and ripeness align. We hand-harvested our Zinfandel late at night on October 4th.

WINEMAKING

After hand-sorting the fruit to remove any under or over ripe clusters we fermented the grapes in two stainless steel tanks. For the first, we chased a warm fermentation and added sun-dried stems to contribute layers of spice and structure. We kept the second tank cooler to emphasize and preserve the vibrant fruit character that we love in Zinfandel. Both tanks were pressed at dryness and aged in a selection of French oak, including standard barrels, large puncheons and an 800 gallon cask. After 10 months of aging, we blended the wine and bottled it. The result is a classic expression of Zinfandel that captures the balance of ripe fruit and warm spices with round, ample tannins.