

ROBERT SINSEY VINEYARDS

CABERNET FRANC 2016



Vandal Vineyard, Los Carneros, Napa Valley



- From RSV's Northern Carneros "Vandal Vineyard" near the foothills of Mt. Veeder
- CCOF Certified Organic vineyards
- Cool maritime growing region influenced by the San Pablo Bay
- Heat summation comparable to St. Emilion
- Cave aged 21 months in French oak
- 30% new barrels for subtlety
- 20 barrels produced

Winegrowing Notes

Thirty five years ago, Rob Sinskey and Jeff Virnig decided to farm better grapes organically. The idea was to overcompensate for the damage done by conventional farming and encourage natural processes so a vine could access nutrients naturally and withstand extremes caused by climate change. The soil is better today than when we started, with higher organic content, better structure and healthier populations of mycorrhizae, microbes and earthworms. The soil percolates water while protecting topsoil and the vines are less vigorous in a healthy, balanced way for nutritionally sound grapes that require less in the cellar - purity from dirt to table.

Cabernet Franc, like Pinot Noir, prefers a long, cool growing season so it can develop delicious flavor at lower sugars for a balanced wine with lower alcohol and good acidity. Combine the cool region with RSV's organic/biodynamic farming and minimalist winemaking and you have the ingredients for a superlative wine.

Tasting Notes

This wine is a Franc-purist's dream. The 2016 vintage expresses a typicity that is rare in a New World Cabernet Franc. RSV's Vandal Vineyard employs a "beyond organic" farming methodology that elevates the expression of terroir complimented by a meticulous cellar craftsmanship that allows the purity of the wine to shine.

This Cabernet Franc leads with a stunning, rich crimson color that opens into aromas of rose, bay leaf and sage. Fruit flavors are abundant and inviting. Fresh pomegranate, blackberry, currant and plum meet cranberry and raspberry preserves while hints of cinnamon, star anise, olive, black tea and mocha are laced around tightly woven tannins that elegantly build with each sip with a structure that encourages many culinary options. The wine is ready to drink now but patience will be rewarded with evolving complexity over the next decade and beyond. (1/2022) 483 cases produced.

FINE WINES. ORGANIC VINES.

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CFB - WTF!

I am a reluctant activist. Though it was never enough to just make and sell a product, all I ever wanted for RSV was to have a sense of purpose while we farmed and made a wine that spoke for itself. We needed to feel we were doing the “right” thing; that we stood for something; that we were conscientious of the potential damage modern farming does to the environment and that we would do everything possible to heal an ailing earth. What is frustrating is that the answers to climate change are within our grasp but we, as a farming community, are not embracing the change that could transition from being a contributor to becoming the solution for climate change. I need to be more vocal.

Today I received an email from the California Farm Bureau asking me to write our assemblywoman to protest the proposed bill that will ban the sale of all internal combustion engines and light duty vehicles by 2035. Their sensational call to action reads “SAVE OUR FARM VEHICLES.” They make it sound as though it will do irreparable harm to farmers to not be able to buy an ICE vehicle after 2035. All I can assume is that an oil lobbyist is behind this campaign and not a farmer that has lived through the past five years of record fires and record heat. Doing nothing will do irreparable harm to farmers and all life on this planet.

It was a coincidence that I received this email today when I just placed an order for an electric vehicle and have reservations in place for an electric truck and tractor. Even though we currently use biodiesel in our farm vehicles, I can’t wait to mothball our fleet of noisy, polluting, aging diesel trucks and tractors for emission free vehicles that can be charged by solar. Fossil fuel free wine is coming.

The cool Carneros region may become too warm and the weather too erratic for the delicate grapes of Pinot Noir and Cabernet Franc if climate change continues to go unchecked... but that will be the least of our problems if farmers find keeping up with a rapidly changing climate beyond our ability to adapt.

