

BENCHLANDS 2021



Varietal: 38% Zinfandel, 21% Petite Sirah, 17% Nero d'Avola, 16% Carignan, 4% Valdiguié, 4% Colombard

Alcohol: 12.5%

Vinification: Zinfandel, both Petite Sirahs, and Nero d'Avola were each fermented separately in small batches while the Carignan, Valdiguié, and Colombard grapes were harvested and co-fermented as one lot (red and white grapes together!). The components were kept separate after pressing and aged in neutral oak barrique and larger 500L puncheons. Racked, blended, and bottled after 5 months. Unfined. Unfiltered. Sediment expected.

Vineyard: Zinfandel and Petite Sirah from *Chiarito-Ling Vineyard*, Ukiah, Mendocino County; dry-farmed (non-irrigated) vineyard, farmed by us according to organic principles (no pesticides, herbicides, or synthetic fertilizers); gravelly loam soils. Petite Sirah from *Bricarelli Ranch*, Ukiah, Mendocino County, 15-year-old head trained, dry farmed (non-irrigated) vineyard, farmed by us to organic principles (no pesticides, herbicides, or synthetic fertilizers); gravelly loam soils. Nero d'Avola from *Fox Hill Vineyard*, Talmage Bench, Mendocino County; 34-year-old vines; farmed according to organic principles; sandstone and pebbly loam soils. Carignan, Valdiguié, and Colombard from *Ricetti Vineyard*, Redwood Valley, Mendocino County; planted in 1948; dry-farmed (non-irrigated), certified organic vineyard; gravelly loam soils.

MARTHA'S NOTES

The Benchlands blend was resurrected in 2019 (original vintage was 2015) as a result of a new vineyard we started leasing and farming in 2019 in Mendocino County called Chiarito-Ling. Deviating from the 2015 and 2019 vintages a smidge, in 2020 we added some juicy carbonic Petite Sirah from both of our self-farmed vineyards. Our inspiration only grew deeper in 2021, when we co-fermented Carignan, Valdiguié, and Colombard from Ricetti Vineyard to further lean into this buoyant expression. This wine is inspired by the Italian farming tradition where grapes were planted on the poorer soils of the uplifted benchlands of Mendocino County (the rich valley floor soils were reserved for vegetables). All of the vineyards in this blend are planted on those uplifted benchlands.

PRODUCTION NOTES

Production: 772 cases

At Bottling (February 2022): Free SO₂ 8 mg/L, total SO₂ 24 mg/L. All wines are vegan. All of our wines are fermented with native yeast and bacteria, are vegan (our corks contain beeswax), and have no additions beyond minimal effective sulfites for some wines, as listed.

Martha Stoumen