# BENT OAK

WINERY







# RUSSIAN RIVER 2018 RESERVE

#### The Wine:

Our Zinfandel comes from Bertapelle Vineyards just off of West Dry Creek Road in the heart of the Russian River Valley. Bertapelle Vineyards is a small, idealic vineyard, producing outstanding Zinfandel and Pinot Noir. In the last several years, the Sonoma region experienced significant drought, resulting in dense clusters with intense dark fruit and pepper flavors that hold hints of leather and smoke. We age our Zinfandel in both new and older French oak barrels for additional wine structure and graceful aging.

# AVA:

With parts of the AVA located less than 10 miles from the Pacific, the climate of the Russian River AVA is characterized by cool morning fog that rolls in from the ocean through the Petaluma Gap and burns off during the day. The cooling influence of the fog is responsible for the large diurnal temperature variation, with nighttime temperatures dropping by as much as 35 to 40 degrees Fahrenheit from daytime highs. The Russian River is a rain-fed waterway that swells in the wintertime and provides vital irrigation to the region's vineyards during the dry season in late spring. In the summertime, the warmth of the season is tempered by the maritime influence of fog which facilitates a long, slow ripening period and limits the risk of over-ripeness or "baked" flavors in the grapes. Harvest in the Russian River Area often takes place at later dates than in its neighboring regions. The central and western reaches of the AVA are the coolest, and tend to be most extensively planted with Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, and Viognier.

## Wine Makers Notes:

Our Zinfandel was fermented on the skins for three weeks before pressing to barrels to maximize color and aromatic integration. Our yeast choice for Zinfandel is Rockpile yeast which favors this variety and enhances mouthfeel. We racked the Zinfandel into both new and older French oak barrels to allow the wine to mature and finish in building this fantastic and age-worthy wine.

Recommended Food Pairings: Game birds, veal chops, pork chops, spicy red meat dishes

## Technical Data:

pH - 3.87 TA - 0.62g/100mL SO2 - 81 mg/L A/V - 16.9%

Production: 161 cases

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