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2015 VALSECCHI VINEYARD CARNEROS DISTRICT SONOMA VALLEY ZINFANDEL

This vineyard is one of Biale's little gems - a beautiful Zinfandel from a small inconspicuous site just outside the town of Sonoma, off Napa Road. Technically this vineyard lies just within the northern boundary of the Carneros Appellation which makes it very rare indeed – one of only a few Zinfandels and certainly the oldest existing vineyard within this AVA (American Viticultural Appellation).

Carneros (meaning “rams” in Spanish), lying close to San Pablo Bay, has a particularly cool, breezy and foggy maritime climate with soils that were formed millennia ago when it once was submerged by an inland sea. Occasionally fossilized sea shells can be found among the rocks and soils of Carneros vineyards. Easy access for barges and boats and excellent agricultural conditions made Carneros a prime source for all types of produce and meats that were supplied to early San Francisco – grapes being among the most in demand.

The Valsecchi Vineyard is named for John Valsecchi, who after a life of dairy work, retired to farm the old Zinfandel vineyard near Sonoma he had purchased that was planted around 1900. Under the prideful and loving care of Valsecchi's grandson, Ron Mick, the vineyard has survived with its ton or two of grapes going to Biale since 1995. Hidden behind a farmhouse, you would never notice this patch of twisting and weathered old vines. Now - Valsecchi in the glass -you would sit up and take notice!

Vintage Notes: Early harvest yields high quality wine grape crop. In spite of dry conditions, vintners are using words like “quality,” “complexity”, “ageability”, and “excellent” to describe their expectations for the 2015 vintage in Napa Valley. Harvest started and ended with record early dates.

Harvest Dates: 9/10/2015

Winemaking: The fruit was hand-sorted first in the field then again at the winery. Open-top fermentation and punched down three times per day. Pressed to Burgundian oak – 20% new. Aged 14 months.

Alcohol: 14.9%

Winemaker's Tasting Notes: Both red and black fruits are present in the nose of this lovely wine. Strawberry Rhubarb pie and exotic fruits also fill the nose. This wine has concentrated fruit with a punch of acidity which makes for a beautiful interplay and balance, with a long refreshing finish.

Only 98 cases produced.