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## 2016 NONNA'S VINEYARD SANGIOVESE OAK KNOLL DISTRICT

In 1992, one year after we started the winery, Aldo converted a small vineyard block behind his house to Sangiovese and named it after his mother. It turned out to be so good that we broke from our Zinfandel course and added it to the Biale repertoire.

An immigrant from northern Italy, Nonna, met her life partner Pietro Biale, also of northern Italy, while working in San Francisco. Together they saved and bought a small farm in Napa and raised walnuts, prunes, chickens, eggs, and of course Zinfandel grapes. When Pietro died in 1942, it was Christina who took over the farming and kept the ranch going.

What we've learned about Sangiovese is that it is prolific and needs to be kept in check. With that accomplished through some intensive farming, the wine takes on depth and complexity and vivid flavors. We've also found our Sangiovese to be cellar worthy – they age surprisingly well.

**Vintage Notes:** The 2016 growing season was near-perfect with an early start and ideal weather conditions throughout. A relatively steady and mild July and August and then a series of warm days at the end of the growing season, vineyards were able to progress to perfect ripeness. The season wrapped up beautifully as the first significant fall rainstorm arrived on October 14th – just after the last of our grapes were picked.

**Harvest Dates:** 9-23-16

**Winemaking:** Our winemaking begins in the vineyard with meticulous attention to detail and close monitoring by Bob Biale and winemaker Tres Goetting.

At harvest, the fruit is hand-picked and hand sorted to ensure that only the best fruit makes it into the fermenter. The grapes are then crushed and gravity fed into open top tanks. The must is cold soaked for 2 to 4 days at 50 degrees Fahrenheit. We then inoculate the must with commercial yeast strains. For color and tannin extraction, we do 2 to 3 punch downs per day. Fermentation is usually complete after 14 to 16 days at a maximum temperature of 86°F. At dryness, we lightly press to 100% Burgundy oak barrels of which 25% are new. Malolactic fermentation is completed in the barrels. The wine was aged in barrels for 16 months.

**Alcohol:** 14.5%

**Winemaker's Tasting Notes:** This wine is full of rustic red fruit aromas including Bing cherries, rhubarb, strawberries and plum as well as hints of chamomile and savory spice. Medium bodied with a clean and bright entry. Full textural tannins with nice acidity make this a perfect wine for pairing with food. Drink now or cellar through 2020.