

— ROBERT —
BIALE
VINEYARDS

2023 VALSECCHI VINEYARD

CARNEROS, SONOMA COUNTY 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 proud 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:

The 2023 season was one of the coolest vintages in more than a decade that, as time progressed, showed all the markings of the spectacular vintage that ended up in the bottle. Several years of drought were erased in a single season as rains began just after the completion of the 2022 harvest and continued through the spring of 2023. Ample ground water and cool temperatures delayed budbreak until April with flowering in mid-May. Moderate temperatures through the spring and summer allowed for balanced maturation across all vineyards - allowing us to pick at the perfect intersections of flavor, sugar, acid, and tannin maturity. Harvesting at Robert Biale began with earlier sites in September while moderate heat at the start of October accelerated picking that lasted through the end of the month.

WINEMAKER'S TASTING NOTES

Lending to its proximity to the foggy San Pablo Bay, this wine is lively example of Zinfandel. Exuberant notes of cranberry, boysenberry, pomegranate, and violets on the nose. Mouthwatering acidity on the palate with generous notes of Bing cherry, honeysuckle, cedar, and grapefruit zest, framed by finely woven tannin.

124 cases produced



Harvest	October 11 th
Aging	9 months French oak; 20% new
pH	3.54
TA	5.7 g/L
Alcohol	14.5%