

— ROBERT —  
**BIALE**  
VINEYARDS

## 2023 VAROZZA VINEYARD

ST. HELENA, NAPA VALLEY ZINFANDEL

We tend to forget these days that Napa Valley was founded not by faceless consortiums or companies, but by families. Hard-working farming families that plowed and grinded out a life, season by season, raising crops by which they made their livings, paid their bills and raised their children. According to Napa Valley Vintners, Napa Valley, which grows only 4% of California wine, is surprisingly still 95% family-owned. There still remain a small number of those families that are Napa Valley originals. The Varozzas are one of those.

Jack and Diana Varozza run the same ranch that goes back to Napa's earliest days in the 1800s and has been in their family for over a century – Jack being the grandson of Joseph Varozza and son of Harold Varozza who worked the ranch over their lifetimes.

At the northern edge of their 40 acres in St. Helena bordering York Creek is a patch of classic head-trained Zinfandel vines that, heading south, connects to a younger block of trellised vines. Jack farms it all himself and Biale is the glad recipient of their prime fruit. What delicious Zinfandel they make!

### 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

Characteristic black cherry along with notes of nutmeg, tobacco, plum, and grapefruit on the nose. Plush on the palate with blackberry, strawberry preserves, white pepper, and vanilla. Assertive, yet finely grained tannins complete this elegant Zinfandel.

331 cases produced



<b>Harvest</b>	Sept. 19 <sup>th</sup> and 22 <sup>nd</sup>
<b>Aging</b>	9 months French oak; 30% new
<b>pH</b>	3.78
<b>TA</b>	4.8 g/L
<b>Alcohol</b>	14.9%