



2016 AIDA ESTATE ZINFANDEL



THE VINEYARD Our Aida Estate Vineyard has confirmed our initial belief that this site would be the ideal location for growing Bordeaux varietals. Just north of the pinch in the hourglass of the Napa Valley, the cabernet sauvignon grapes from our Aida Estate provide the bold, structured backbone for this immensely enjoyable wine.

THE VINTAGE The 2016 growing season in Napa Valley was long, warm and nearly perfect. The mild Spring promoted early budburst while calm conditions ensured a full fruit set. The summer was warm but relatively uneventful in terms of heat spikes or rain events. August and September were moderate and allowed us to carefully plan out a long, extended, low stress harvest. The finished wines possess explosive aromatics, intense fruit flavors, and good structure. Not as firm and structured as 2013 but more so than 2014, the 2016 wines show excellent aging potential.

THE WINE Fresh rose petals, brambly blackberry, warm baking spices and hints of white pepper fill the nose and are complimented by a juicy, fruit-forward entry, creamy Tahitian vanilla, black cherry, blueberry preserves and a touch of sandalwood on the mid-palate. The acid is bright and present providing a freshness along with the richness and weight. The tannins are youthful, juicy and supple assuring that this Zinfandel is not only delicious upon release but has the structure to age gracefully for well over a decade.

CRITIC SCORES:

94+pts - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, *Wine Advocate*

Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2016 Zinfandel Aida Estate is a little youthfully reticent to begin, opening out to reveal bags of preserved black cherries, dried mulberries, prunes and chocolate mint suggestions with nuances of kirsch, spice box, underbrush and tilled soil plus a waft of rose hip tea. Full-bodied and boldly fruited in the mouth, it has a firm frame of plush tannins and fantastic freshness lifting the seductive spiced berry preserves layers to a long, earth-laced finish.