

— R O B E R T —
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2021 R.W. Moore Vineyard Coombsville, Napa Valley Zinfandel **HERITAGE ON HAGEN**

Historic Hagen Road runs east-west across Napa Valley's Coombsville Appellation. Close to San Francisco Bay, this newly recognized rural district near the city of Napa is quickly gaining recognition for producing many elegant, polished, and finely balanced wines from many varieties – red and whites – that speak to the region's cool and hilly conditions in southern Napa Valley.

The Moore Vineyard lies smack dab in the district's middle on Hagen Road adjacent to Sarcos Creek with a looming Mt. George to the east. This is where the family of a seafarer by the name of Pleasant Ashley Stevens planted vines in 1905. Most of those vines still exist today thanks to the dedicated farming and wisdom of Bill Moore, a retired orthodontist, who purchased the property as his first home in the 1980s. This is the oldest vineyard in Coombsville and amazingly enough – it is Zinfandel.

This vineyard is especially important to the wine industry now as its genetic heritage is being carefully preserved and propagated through the U.C. Davis Heritage Vineyard project. In other words, the genetic material from these historic vines is being saved for future generations of winemakers. In the meantime, we get to enjoy the immense pleasures that this Zinfandel brings.

Vintage Notes: The growing season saw rain in January and February then almost no notable precipitation for the rest of the season. This provided an ideal environment for grapes to flower, bloom and set in early spring. Budbreak was early in April followed by flowering and bloom in May. The summer saw early and even ripening with no concerning heat spikes. Everything tended early thanks to the calm spring with veraison appearing in early July. Due in part to the drought, yields were naturally lower, resulting in less dropping of fruit in the vineyards. It was one of the earliest starts to harvest on record. Harvest kicked off with clear skies and almost no weather events to worry winemakers. This allowed the grapes to hang as long as winemakers wanted to achieve optimal ripening and taste.

Harvest Date: September 14th

Winemaking: Our winemaking begins in the vineyard with meticulous attention to detail and close monitoring by Bob Biale and winemaker David Natali. 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°F. 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 eleven months.

Winemaker's Tasting Notes: Rich notes of bramble fruit, candied strawberry, cocoa powder, and pomegranate molasses greet you in the glass. On the palate, the wine offers both fruit-driven and savory elements with notes of plum, black cherry, fig, baking spices, leather, and the vaguest of hints of the volcanic ash upon which it is grown. Elegant fine-grained tannins complete this stellar example of 100+ year old vine Zinfandel.