



Aperture

A note from our Founder and Winemaker, Jesse Katz:

By all accounts, 2020 had the potential to be a spectacular vintage. Due to a dry winter, the vines woke up early which resulted in a smaller crop that produced dense, rich, high-quality fruit. As the summer marched on, the grapes benefited greatly from the end-of-season heat which added to the flavor of the small berries. I was thrilled! A small crop coupled with petite berries will increase the skin-to-juice ratio which, for me, is a key indicator of an excellent vintage for Bordeaux reds.

Then, on August 17th, a series of highly unusual lightning storms caused a fire 9 miles southwest of the winery. This became known as the Walbridge fire which scorched over 55,000 acres. We were fortunate that most of our vineyards were located a safe distance from the active fire zone, in the eastern-most hills of Alexander Valley. Even still, we were at the mercy of the winds and their potential to carry damaging smoke to our vines. We spent countless hours running hundreds of micro-fermentations, testing each bin to see if any smoke influence was detectable in our grapes. Each lot was tested multiple times and any batches that came back with more than 1-part-per-billion were removed from the winery. In the end, 38% of our entire 2020 red vintage was declassified in order to achieve 100% certainty that the quality of our wines was perfect.

As a result, you will see we are missing a few wines from the 2020 vintage, including our Estate 1912 Blend, which is typically included in our fall release. We look forward to bringing this wine back again next fall, with the 2021 vintage.

It goes without saying that this was the most stressful and challenging vintage of my 20+ harvests. Seeing the exceptional integrity and tasting the caliber of the wines we were able to produce made our efforts all worthwhile. I can personally guarantee that the wines we are offering from our 2020 vintage are nothing short of flawless.

I look forward to raising a glass with you at our Fall Release Virtual Wine Tasting. I hope that you enjoy the blood, sweat, and many tears that went into the making of these wines.

- Jesse Katz