

# SEBASTIANI

# 2017 GRAVEL BED RED



## THE VINEYARDS

Gravelly soils are responsible for some of the world's greatest wines. With their superior draining properties and lack of nutrients, they encourage better balanced vines, less sprawl, smaller berries and more intense wines. Gravel Bed Red, as the name suggests, is a proprietary blend showcasing some of the best gravelly sites in Sonoma County. Our 2017 bottling features fruit from superb, rocky/volcanic sites in Sonoma Valley: Cherryblock, Mission and Hoagland. The majority of the blend is from our historic Cherryblock vineyard which is a mix of both old and new vines.

## THE VINTAGE

The 2017 growing season started off with record setting rainfalls, delaying bud break from years past. Spring and summer experienced a mixture of foggy, warm and windy conditions. The summer months were moderately warm allowing the grapes to mature at an ideal pace. Extreme heat spikes at the end of August to early September pushed harvest ahead of schedule. The fruit for this wine entered the winery from September 21 to October 21, 2017.

## WINEMAKING

We cold soaked many of the lots to increase color and flavor extraction. All of the grapes were fermented warm and only a small portion of press wine was included for aromatics and structure. After fermentation, all of the individual lots were racked off the lees and put into a combination of French and Hungarian oak barrels. After aging for 18 months, the wine was bottled in July 2019.

## WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Our 2017 Gravel Bed Red is a harmonious expression of the gravelly vineyard sites from a warmer vintage. Deep ruby in the glass, this wine opens with aromas of plum, cedar and vanilla. The palate offers great depth and richness, with flavors of dark berries, mocha, peppery spice and tealeaves. The finish is long and smooth with well-balanced acidity and tannins. Enjoy in its youth or age for 2-4 years to allow for greater complexity.

-David Nakaji, *Winemaker*

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## TECHNICAL NOTES

APPELLATION	Sonoma County
COMPOSITION	89% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Sauvignon
AGING	18 months in French and Hungarian oak barrels
ALCOHOL	14.7%
TA	0.70 g/100 ml
pH	3.47
BOTTLING DATE	July 2019
CASES	490