



## 2016 ZINFANDEL

NAPA VALLEY

Kuleto is one of the most complex and diverse wine producing properties in the world. Located in the volcanic mountains of eastern Napa our estate features 761 total acres and 82.9 acres of vines perched along ridges and clinging to steep hillsides. Our soils, exposures, elevation changes and sub-climates are so complex that we've delineated our property into more than 100 micro-blocks. Each of these tiny plots is treated as an individual vineyard with varieties, clones, rootstocks, density, trellising and farming methods tailored specifically to the site.

For winemaker John Clews, there is a mutual understanding that all but a small percentage of the winemaker's work is done in the vineyard. Keeping the vineyard's serpentine twists and exposures in mind, the best-suited varieties for each block have been selected. Working with the land, not against it, the individually terraced lots are not oriented to one central direction, but instead are planted to maximize the benefits of their natural location.

### WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Vintage 2016 gave us yet another beautiful vintage in the Napa Valley. This following the fabulous vintages of 2012-2015. Marked by a few late-season heat spells, the wines are as opulent as the 2012s, with the concentration of the 2014s.

With our Estate Zinfandel, we've never trying to swing for the fences to create an over-ripe Port-like wine. We produce other varieties on the property that can satisfy anyone in need of wines of that flavor profile and stature. Rather, we prize Zinfandel for its big fruit character, crazy spiciness, and juicy acidity. This we capture by not letting the fruit get too ripe, by picking it hot and soaking it warm overnight, and by employing a very long cool fermentation. The essence of the variety and vintage is further preserved by aging it without racking in larger 500L barrels, or puncheons.

Our 2016 Zinfandel is a classic old world style; loaded with aromas of fresh blue fruits and strong notes of violet, followed by black pepper and a hint of vanilla. These aromas carry through to the palate with bright and juicy fruit flavors. Additional flavors of fresh plum intermingle with mild tannins and a subtle toastiness from the oak aging, leading way to a very even and long finish.

### TECHNICAL DATA

Varietal Composition 95% Zinfandel, 4% Alicante Bouschet, 1% Petite Sirah

Vineyard Kuleto Estate | Alcohol 14.5%

Aging 16 months in 20% new Hungarian Oak 500L puncheons

pH 3.6 | TA 6.5 g/l

Cases Produced 244 (12 x 750 ml)