

OTTIMINO

Windsor Oaks Vineyard

2007 RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY ZINFANDEL



Windsor Oaks Vineyard is another new addition to Ottimino's portfolio of vineyard-designated wines and lies quite some distance from Ottimino's core vineyards near Occidental. Unlike Biglieri Vineyard in Dry Creek Valley, however, Windsor Oaks stays within the confines of Russian River Valley—but in Russian River Valley's “other” sub-appellation, Chalk Hill, instead of Occidental's Green Valley. The commonality? Another cool site for Zinfandel, the hallmark of all of Ottimino's Zinfandel vineyards!

VINEYARDS

Windsor Oaks Vineyard is actually the site of the old Balverne Winery, but it has been substantially re-planted for ultra-premium grape production by its new owner, and a number of sites are perfectly suited to Zinfandel. Vineyard Managers Doug & Julie Lumgair tightly control the yields on the three Zinfandel blocks in this vineyard blend, thinning the crop numerous times to eliminate all green and raisined fruit and deliver the most even and fully ripened Zinfandel possible.

WINEMAKING

We employed our usual “claret-style” processing by cold-extracting the fruit for two days with lengthy pumpovers to extract color and tannin from the must, even before fermentation began. The new wine stayed on the skins for a total of three weeks, and then was pressed off into French oak barrels for malolactic fermentation, which occurred with native bacteria over the next three months. Quarterly rackings softened the tannins and integrated the oak, and the wine was bottled without fining.

TASTING NOTES

Bright and bold aromas of raspberry and blueberry mingle with black pepper spice and a good dollop of French oak. The entry is lush with gobs of fruit, giving way to an expansive, tongue coating mid-palate and layers of spiced berry and cherry. Ample tannin supports the wine's finish, which reverberates with pure Zinfandel character, and the wine's depth and balance insure great aging potential as well as versatility in pairing with many different dishes.

Production Details

Blend:	100% Zinfandel
Vineyard:	Windsor Oaks
Appellation:	Russian River Valley
Cooperage:	Francois Freres & Roberts (custom)
Aging:	21 months
Barrel Age:	50% new, 50% 1 year old
Production:	744 cases

Analytical Data

Harvested:	September 10, 2007
Brix:	24.6
TA:	6.8g/L
pH	3.51
Bottled:	July 29, 2009
TA:	5.7g/L
pH:	3.74