

## STEELE ZINFANDEL 2016

### *Catfish Vineyard*

#### VINEYARDS

The vineyard is located on the Bell Hill Road, a part of the Kelsey Bench of Lake County, just south of Kelseyville. Catfish Vineyard, planted in 1901, is head pruned and stands on its own roots. Steele Wines purchased the vineyard in 2000 and we have been working to rehabilitate the old vines since that time. Catfish Vineyard Zinfandel, is actually a field blend of a number of varieties, including small amounts of Carignan, Alicante Bouschet, Cabernet Sauvignon, Petite Sirah, and Cinsault. Having more than one variety assured the old-time vintners that they would have some grapes to harvest regardless of the spring frosts or autumn storms.

#### WINE STYLE & TASTING NOTE

We utilize warm temperature fermentations on the Steele Catfish Vineyard Zinfandel. This is followed by 12 months aging in hybrid barrels. The hybrid barrels are unique in that they have alternating staves of French and American oak, which balance the unique flavors of this wine. With volcanic soil and wide variety of grapes in the field blend this wine tends toward a more brambly style. The wine provides a mouth full of bright red fruit, and many layers of jam, coffee, and eucalyptus along with good structure and balance.

#### FOOD PAIRINGS

Enjoy this wine with Cioppino, pasta or red meat in a cream-based sauce. Grilled venison, spice-rubbed leg or rack of lamb, pizza with pesto and sausage are also great companions to this wine.

#### TECHNICAL NOTES

APPELLATION Lake County, CA ALCOHOL 14.8% pH 3.73

TA 0.64g/100mL RS 0.20g/L BARREL AGING 12 months in American oak

(30% new) VINE AGE avg. 75 years YIELDS 2-3 tons per acre

PRODUCTION 2000 cases MSRP \$25.00

