



# BIRICHINO

## 2013 ST GEORGES ZINFANDEL OLD VINES

Planted by a bootlegger in 1922, this ungrafted old vine zinfandel has been under the protection of the Besson family, *de père en fils* for the past ninety years. Nestled up against the Eastern edge of the Santa Cruz Mountains, morning and afternoon sun and marine-moderated night here permit full expression and flavor development without requiring raisination and ruination by fire-breathing degrees of alcohol.

Though we spent many days opening up the canopy and trimming the occasional cluster thanks to zinfandel's tightly spaced berries, once we picked the vineyard our winemaking was quite simple. We destemmed, and after several cool days, indigenous yeast did its work. A shortage of neutral barrels in 2013 led us to put down only 1/4 of the lot right after primary. While we sourced more, the balance waited in stainless until early winter. Necessity was here the mother of serendipity as the longer tenure in stainless preserved the higher toned little red fruits and freshness we adore, while the earlier to bed portion brought deeper, darker black fruit and spice. Together, 1+1=3. We racked once and combined the two lots before bottling unfiltered in June.

-Alex and John

**Release Date:** Summer 2014  
**Composition:** Zinfandel 100%  
**Appellation:** Central Coast