



BIRICHINO

2018 ST GEORGES ZINFANDEL OLD VINES

We extolled the virtues of the relatively cool vintage 2018 for producing elegant, streamlined, highly aromatic and complex wines. Those qualities emerge more strongly in Saint Georges Zinfandel than any Birichino *confrère*. The advertised abv of 13.0% recalls old vine zinfandels from a bygone era. The truth always outs when evaluating the merits of a given site over a period of vintages of varying character. 2017 and 2018 were polar opposites with regard to vintage conditions, though the vineyard produced equally compelling, if completely different wines. The site was first planted on gravelly loam soils by an Italian bootlegger in 1922 in the lee of the Santa Cruz Mountains, on the wrong side of the law and the road, and 50' too low to qualify for what became the Santa Cruz Mountains appellation in 1981. Yet the mountain and marine influence of Monterey Bay 12 miles west is undeniable- the acidity is mouthwatering, yet enhanced by a stone fruit spectrum of flavors and alpine herbs overlaid on the brambly sapidity of zinfandel. Farmed continuously from father to son by the Besson family for the past ninety-five years. Native ferment, elevage in neutral barriques and demi-muid. Unfiltered.

-Alex & John

Harvest Date: 10/1/2018
Composition: Zinfandel 100%,
Appellation: Central Coast
Press: 91 pts, Vinous, Oct 2020,
91 pts, Wine Enthusiast, Dec
2020

