

DUTTON *Goldfield*

2017

CHERRY RIDGE VINEYARD

SYRAH

RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

APPELLATION

Russian River Valley – Green
Valley

VINEYARD

Cherry Ridge Vineyard

HARVEST DATE

October 12, 2017

ALCOHOL

13.8%

TITRATABLE ACIDITY

6.1 gm/Lit.

pH

3.51

WINEMAKING

Open top fermentation, cold
soak, manual punch down

BARREL AGING

21 months in French oak
(40% new barrels)

WINEMAKER

Dan Goldfield

CASES PRODUCED

222

SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE

\$50

THE VINEYARD

Cherry Ridge juts out over the west side of Green Valley just north of the Petaluma Wind Gap. This scenic vineyard enjoys a south facing slope at the top of the ridge, making it a proverbial “warm spot in a cold area”. Cherry Ridge is just temperate enough to ripen Syrah (most years) in a region best known for the cold-loving Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Just over three acres are planted, split between clones 470, 383 and 877, for the balance of bright fruit, white pepper spice, and plush tannins that we love.

WINEMAKING

In the traditional fashion, our Syrah is fermented in small open top fermenters, where punchdowns impart a softness which so compliment the depth inherent in this varietal. The fruit is hand sorted and destemmed, and the must is cold-soaked for 5 days in order to gently extract color, spice and fruit characters, while mitigating harsher tannins. After fermentation, the wine is raked into French oak to age. During its barrel aging, this wine was raked twice: once for initial blending and barrel honing, and a second time to further bring along flavor and tannin development. We always start out with fewer new barrels than it might end up in, both to finesse the amount of new wood, and to season some new barrels with white fermentation before using them in the final Syrah aging. The wine was bottled in late July of 2019.

THE WINE

The long 2017 season let our Syrah hang into mid-October, giving the wine great ripeness and succulence. Your first look at the wine confirms this—wow, what a color! Deep purple and saturated in the glass, you know this will be an intense wine. Cedar-framed blackberry preserves lead the dark and brooding complex aromas, with a wild gamey and toffee underpinning adding an exotic interest. The mouth is dense, deep and creamy with cherries and marionberries laced with white pepper and sandalwood. Assertive but fine-grained tannins lead to a fresh cranberry/cherry baking spice finish. Grilled meats and charcuterie are the first thing that come to mind for pairing, as their richness are a perfect match for the weight of the wine, while the smokey notes out the spice and counterpoint the fruit. A heart beef stew would make a great accompaniment, enjoyed by a cozy fireplace. Rogue River Blue cheese also makes a nice pairing, along with a Spanish Manchego or creamy goat.

Dutton-Goldfield Winery began in a vineyard in 1998, when longtime colleagues and friends Steve Dutton and Dan Goldfield recognized a shared vision between them—to craft wines that express the personalities of their vineyards, and which they'd enjoy drinking at their own dinner tables. Our mission is to produce world-class wines that display the brightness of fruit, complexity, structure and balance that are reflective of our cool coastal home.