



HARVEST

Paso Robles experienced a dry and warm vintage in 2013. Early budbreak with little frost prompted an early growing season and harvest. Whale Rock Vineyard's location in the Templeton Gap exposed it to the cooling marine influence at night, resulting in an extended ripening period. Overall yields were good and quality was excellent.

VINEYARDS

Whale Rock Vineyard was planted in 2001 by Castoro Cellars and is CCOF certified organically grown. The name is inspired by the thousands of petrified whale bones from ancient times scattered throughout the property. The vineyard is located on the west side of Paso Robles in the "Templeton Gap." The climate is characterized by warm days followed by cool nights and mornings, and temperature shifts of more than 50 degrees are not uncommon. Soils are high in limestone and sedimentary rock. These austere conditions create an ideal environment for Zinfandel. The clone used for this wine is Primitivo.

WINEMAKING

Zinfandel grapes were hand harvested into half-ton bins and crushed into small fermentation bins. Following a two-day cold soak, the bins were inoculated with D254 yeast to initiate the primary fermentation. To achieve maximum flavor and color extraction, the bins were punched down three times daily until the wine reached 6 degrees Brix. When the fermentation reached dryness, the wine was pressed and transferred to three new American oak barrels and two neutral American oak barrels where it completed malo-lactic fermentation and aged for 15 months.

TASTING NOTES

Vibrant and well balanced, this wine features aromas of plum, blueberry and cranberry with hints of vanilla, spice and subtle oak. On the palate, juicy fruit flavors with a touch of dried spice are supported by a velvety mid-palate and firm acidity. The wine culminates in a clean, lingering finish.

Varietal:	Zinfandel	T.A.:	6.83 g/L
Appellation:	Paso Robles	pH:	3.55
Vineyard:	Whale Rock	Alcohol:	14.3%
Harvest:	October 28, 2013	Bottling:	December 2014
Oak Aging:	15 months	Production:	150 cases