



IDLEWILD *Wines*

2013 Valdiguié, Enzenauer Vineyard

Vineyard

Phil Enzenauer is a long time grape grower in Dry Creek Valley as well as other areas of Sonoma County. My dad bought grapes from him nearly thirty years ago, and it is a pleasure to hear his stories of the old days that make me recall my childhood. This 75 plus year old vineyard is also known as the Watson Vineyard. It sits on the northeast facing bench in the upper corner of Dry Creek Valley, and the soils are red iron rich gravelly loam. Valdiguié has a convoluted past in California that began with being mis-identified as Gamay. While most commonly found in old field blends a few single plantings were made, but most of them have been pulled in favor of the more common. This is one of the few full acres still in the ground.

Vintage

2013 started with a pistol shot and was off to the races. A month into the season, there were predictions of the earliest harvest in recent memory. Then, rains and stretches of unseasonably cool weather came through in the summer. Nature nearly corrected the timetables back to normal. The resulting fruit seems to show both influences: both a sense of richness (the hallmark of heat) as well as a delicate and tightly balanced edge (the hallmark of more temperate weather). In the end, it seems the 2013 fruit made for wines of balance and purity, though simultaneously they give a broader aromatic spectrum and depth.

Winemaking

Playing on the original mis-identification as Gamay, the Valdiguié is made in a Beaujolais style using full carbonic maceration, an enzymatic fermentation that takes place inside the berries of whole cluster grapes. The end result of fully carbonic wines is a playful jovialness. They are the type of wines that ought to bring a grin to your face; though, they don't have to be simple. Rather, they can be full of aromatics and when relying on snappy acidity, they are very food friendly. The Valdiguié was raised in neutral French oak barrels for 9 months.

Wine

It is clear from the first smell that this wine is fun. But, as you move further into the wine, the complexity comes out and shows itself despite the outright delicious and gulpable side. Candied watermelon, tart red raspberries, lemon thyme, verbena, pine needles, and pink peppercorns are all evident in the nose. The mouthfeel is lean and fresh with very vibrant acidity that echoes the raspberries, fresh herbs, and peppercorns. Served slightly chilled, this is a great light red for lunch or to start a meal... or all on its own.

120 cases produced.

