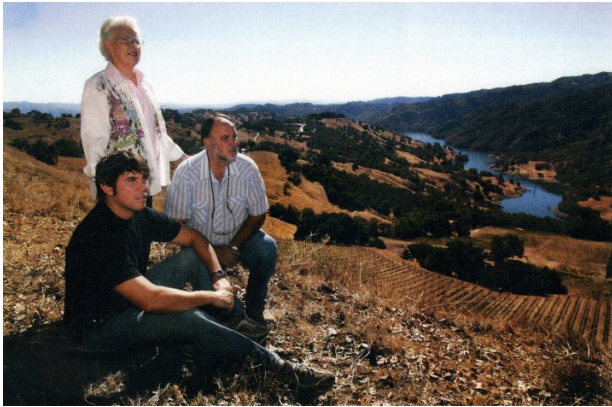


MAURITSON & ROCKPILE WINERY

Located in Sonoma County, the Mauritson family has six generations of farming coursing through their veins and 230 acres of vineyards throughout Dry Creek and Alexander Valley. Down from 4,000 acres in the early 1960's, the Mauritson family has been growing grapes in Dry Creek since 1868. In 1884, it was their great-great-grandfather, S.P. Hallengren who first planted grapes in the Rockpile Region. And when the Army Corps of Engineers coveted the land for the constructing of Lake Sonoma, the family's then remaining 700 acres that sat atop the ridge were left to wild coyotes, sheep and pigs. Nearly 40 years later, in 2000, brothers Thomas and Chris Mauritson reestablished their roots atop Rockpile by planting vineyards.

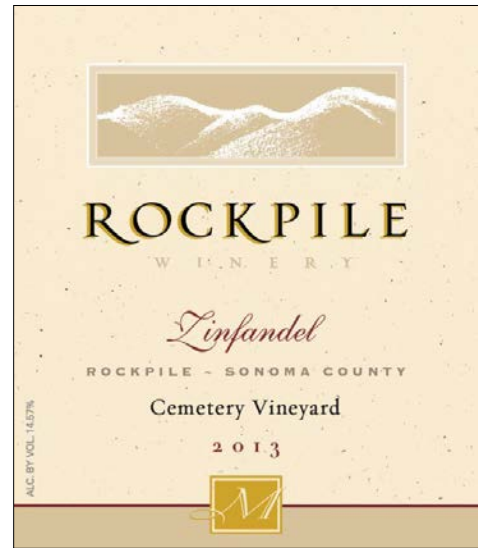


Established as an American Viticultural Area in 2002, Rockpile sits 800+ feet above sea level, on land that's difficult to farm—rocky, rugged and steep. The Healdsburg-Rogers Creek Fault runs through the AVA, providing the family with 17 different soil types, that when combined with the cool coastal breezes from the Pacific Ocean, which sits 13 miles to the west, creates ideal yet varied growing conditions for their Zinfandel, Syrah and Petite Sirah vines—limited yields, excellent drainage, and exposure to wind and sun.

Just as it took a few years' hiatus for the family to return to grape growing on Rockpile's ridge, it took a similar absence for winemaker/owner Clay Mauritson to return to the vineyard. The familiarity gained tending grapes as a teen primed Clay for his return to the region following a football injury at the University of Oregon. After a few years at Kenwood Vineyards, Clay honed his winemaking skills at Taft Street Vineyards and Dry Creek Vineyards, before bottling his first vintage in 1998 at Mauritson. In 2002, he committed his efforts full-time to making wine at his family's vineyards; and last year, he and his team individually fermented 68 vineyard lots before blending and bottling.

ROCKPILE ZINFANDEL

“CEMETERY VINEYARD”



Varietal/Blend: 100% Zinfandel

Farming: traditional farming with organic practices

Soil: virtually no soil / serpentine and heat-retaining shale

Exposure and Elevation: SW / 1,200ft

Aging: 18 months in oak barrels / 85% French / 15% American

Alcohol: 14.57%

Fined: light

Filtered: light

Production #s: 575 cases

The Cemetery block gets its name from the unusual outcropping of rock at the bottom of the vineyard that resembles giant headstones. The amazing intensity of the vintage seems to have shown a spotlight on the bold nature of this vineyard. Briary dark fruit, smoked meat, and hints of subtle oak punctuate the nose of this wine. On the entry there is both power and grace in the phenomenal tannin structure and the focus the wine retains. The brooding nature of the fruit is apparent as are the complex layers that this wine has to reveal. Wild berry, graphite and hints of herb are complemented by notes of roasted coffee.

Country: United States

Region: Sonoma

Sub Region: Rockpile

Vineyard: Cemetery Vineyard