el Coco

It is believed that G.B. Crane first established grapes on this site in the year 1885, making it one of the oldest vineyards in the Napa Valley. Although records are scarce, it was most likely planted as a field blend commonly known as "mixed blacks". This field blend traditionally consisted of Zinfandel, Petite Sirah, Carignan, and a smattering of lesser-known grape varieties such as Alicante Bouschet, Mourvedre and *Valdiguie*. Of the eight acres in production, approximately four acres are one of G.B. Crane's original plantings. This four-acre block has been continuously farmed for nearly one hundred and thirty years by a number of different people…and now it is our turn to take on that responsibility.

We purchased the entire eight-acre vineyard only days before the 2012 grapes were harvested. A group of friends with a common goal, to preserve this piece of viticultural history and produce a wine that both represents and respected that history. As well as the four-acre old vine section there is also a 1.6 acre block of Cabernet Sauvignon, a 1.4 acre block of Petite Sirah, and two rows of Merlot. All of these blocks were vinified separately and aged in 100% French oak. After a year in barrel the individual wines were assessed and the blending process began. The result of this blending process is a wine that combines the vibrant yet stoic fruitiness of the Zinfandel with the power and structure of Petite Sirah. Perhaps the biggest surprise is the Merlot, which adds a silky texture that gracefully completes the long finish.

2013 el Coco Blend Composition

47% Old Vine Zinfandel   42% Petite Sirah   9% Merlot   2% Cabernet Sauvignon

Tasting Notes

Rich aromatics of dark stone fruits and soft French oak mingle together to frame a very sophisticated entry with more than ample weight. The bright mid-pallet is replete with waves of concentration. High tones of ripe cherries and cassis come together and coat the mouth in richness. The finish is broad and expansive and lingers elegantly for over half a minute.

Winemaker – Kevin A. Fox