

WAYPOINT

2016 Waypoint Zinfandel “Shake Ridge” Amador County

A waypoint is an intermediate point or place on a route or line of travel. In modern terms, it most often refers to coordinates which specify one’s position on the globe. In the wine world, one’s waypoint tells a unique story of time and place in the glass.

Waypoint was born out of the idea of spotlighting single-vineyard properties, throughout California, to highlight the unique terroir and characteristics of each of these singular plots of dirt. Between Pinot Noir, Cabernet, Merlot, and Petit Verdot, Waypoint was one of the first brands in California to place an emphasis on sourcing fruit from one specific locale and giving it the credit it was due.

A wonderful exercise in sourcing fruit from infamous plots, Waypoint enables us to dig deep into our rolodex to find fruit from unique places that deserve a little more attention. It all starts with fantastic vineyards and folks who farm the right way. There are plenty of important decisions that follow, but ultimately, it’s about letting the wines speak for themselves rather than digging into the winemaking bag of tricks. Single-vineyard wines need to stand on their own merit. Waypoint harnesses that belief with both hands and lets the vineyard and corresponding wine do all the talking.

Tasting Notes

There are plenty of heavy hitters (Helen Keplinger and Andy Erickson, for example) who look to Ann Kraemer’s Shake Ridge as the gold standard in Amador County. No one does it better. Our Zinfandel, from her jewel of a vineyard, is flat-out the best Waypoint has ever released, which is saying something. Boysenberries, black cherries, new leather, and a hint of white pepper, make for one succulent mouthful of wine.

