

Bodkin

We Few, We Happy Few

The Bohemian 2015 Gewürztraminer

Winemaker Chris Christensen's Notes:

Gris Rouge, Nature Rose, Roter Traminer, Ruska and even Gentile Rose Aromatique are all easier to say and spell than its best know name of Gewürztraminer. This expressive aromatic white wine actually comes from a red skinned grape - That's why Rose/Rogue/Roter all appear in the other names - Kinda crazy huh? Anyhow, the fruit for this wine came from 41-year-old vines tended with great care by Randy Pitts of Harvest Moon Winery on the Olivet Rd plain in the Russian River Valley. Even in a climate as cool as the Russian River, it's possible to get the fruit much riper than they do in it's native Alsace. With that in mind, I had the idea that a bit of restraint at harvest would carry on through to the finished wine - In other words harvesting the fruit, more-sooner-than-later-ish would result in a wine that has a more complex and diverse array of variety aromas, especially when made in a bone-dry Germanic style. Subtle rose petal, mandarin, and passion fruit are in the forefront while the honey and lychee stay in the rear with their backs up against the wall. This stainless steel tank fermentation wine tastes as it smells with a light yet luxurious palate weight and a firm backbone of acidity (C'mon man, what else would you expect from Bodkin Wines). The wine has a finish length that cumulates in a note reminiscent of the tangy zest of Hefferveisen - no joke.

Nerd Note:

I called the wine "The Bohemian" as a nod to John Duke of Luxembourg and King of Bohemia AKA John the Blind King. John was the highest ranking noble killed by the English bowman at the Battle of Crécy in 1346. Although he had been blind in both eyes as a result of an infection for 10 years prior to his death, he still insisted on leading a charge against the English front late in the battle. As the chroniclers report, his last words before flinging himself into the battle were "Let it be known the King of Bohemia never runs from a fight". His bravery so inspired the 16-year-old Edward prince of Wales, son of the English commander and King Edward III - That he adopted King John's badge of three white ostrich feathers and his motto of "Ich Died" (I serve) as the badge and motto of the Prince of Wales which are still in use today. Also still in use today is the old Czech expression "To fight like King John" which means to act rashly or charge in blindly to a situation. I found this an apt assessment of my plan for crafting this wine as I have never made Gewürztraminer before but really wanted to just because I love the variety...I think it turned out ok. (Sigh of relief).

Variety

100% Gewürztraminer

Alcohol

13.1%

TA

High as an arrow in flight

RS

Bone-Dry

Wine Enthusiast

90 pts.

