BROWN
NAPA VALLEY

BROWN ESTATE
2018 PRIMITIVO

In 2009 our 10-acre Big Field vineyard, formerly planted entirely to Zinfandel, was replanted to include small blocks of Petite Sirah (3 acres), Primitivo (2 acres), and Tempranillo (1 acre). The latter two now are stand-alone wines in the Brown Estate lineup, the present vintage being our first estate Primitivo bottling after David discerned the 2018 fruit was showing distinctive and noteworthy characteristics. What comes forward in the resulting wine are high-definition spice notes — also present in more muted iterations in our estate Zinfandels — along with luxuriant fruit and floral notes and a hint of minerality. Primitivo and Zinfandel, both cloned from the same Croatian grape (known as Crljenak Kaštelanski), are something like fraternal twins.

[In Noveber 2024, Master Somm Chris Gaither's updated notes on this wine were as follows: *What a treat! Effusive aromatics and a spice-laden finish. Enticing and thought-provoking, aging potential another 15-20 years.]*

Technical

Composition: 100% Primitivo

Vineyard source: Brown Estate — Big Field Block

Appellation: Napa Valley

Barrel aging: 11 months in French oak (30% new, coopered & seasoned in Chile)

ABV: 14.9%
pH: 3.61
TA: 7 g/L

Production: 425 cases in 12 x 750ml format

Sensory

Eye: Ruby through and through!

Nose: Baked red cherry, dried apricot, pomegranate, red apple skin, clove, cinnamon, cardamom, dried apricot, tuberose, and a trace of licorice.

Palate: Medium body, lovely tart cherry with slightly grippy tannins.

Cellar life: Drink now through 2035.