

Mendocino Petite Sirah blend

Fred's (Peterson) Vintaged View Our "Mendo Blendo" reflects the two realities inherent in all interesting wines: place and people. The place being Mendocino County and the people (besides Jamie and myself) being Alvin and Sally Tollini, who grew the grapes that produced this wine. Though we would never trade living in and producing wines from Dry Creek Valley, I've always enjoyed Mendocino County and its wines. Mendocino County winegrowing is an important part of my history. I began my winegrowing career in December 1973 as a vineyard worker for Frey Vineyards in Mendocino's Redwood Valley. In the late 1980s, I had the privilege to develop the Floodgate Vineyard, west of Philo in the Anderson Valley. We produced our Pinot Noir and Chardonnay from grapes grown in this vineyard from 1992 through 2002, when the vineyard was sold to Duckhorn Winery for their Goldeneye label. We began producing our Zero Manipulation wine from the Tollini's Home Ranch "Wild Vines" Carignane in 2000, and have produced it every year since. Alvin Tollini is a third-generation Redwood Valley grower and a wonderful person, as well as an exceptional grape grower. When Alvin offered us some of his Petite Sirah grapes, we were excited to produce a wine with the Tollini Mendocino Petite Sirah at its core. With 52% Petite Sirah along with 43% Syrah, 3% Carignane and 2% Grenache—all from Tollini Vineyard—we couldn't legally call the wine a Petite Sirah, but wanted to come up with a fun name to reflect its origins. The name "Mendo Blendo" is our wink and a nod to Mendocino's other agricultural crop of note.

Tollini Vineyard Located in the Redwood Valley of Mendocino County, the vineyard has been farmed by three generations of the Tollini family. In addition to the old vine, dry farmed Carignane and Zinfandel, Alvin Tollini planted Petite Sirah, Barbera, Grenache, and Syrah over the past 30 years. The gravely, well-drained soil of the southwest-facing benchland site produces fruit with intense color and great depth of flavor.

Tasting Notes

This playful wine is all about having fun. From the whimsical label to the boot-stomping flavors, here's a wine that doesn't take itself too seriously and it's just there for your pure enjoyment. Subtle aromas of vanillin oak and lively berry captivate one into the first sip. After that, this robust wine hooks you with its juicy berry blend of flavors. Ripe blackberry, espresso and dark chocolate are framed with softening tannins and traces of oak. A bit rough and chewy if opened before 2016, but given a bit of time to breathe, it calms right down and behaves civilly, even with those red shoes.