

JOSEPH SWAN VINEYARDS

2916 LAGUNA ROAD, FORESTVILLE, RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY.
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2021 Valdigué - Dry Creek Valley

A now fairly rare grape that was once widely planted in southern France, it was referred to as Napa Gamay or just Gamay in California until a French ampelographer identified it correctly as valdiguié. In 1999 the BATF, which regulates what can be on a wine label, outlawed the use of Gamay, Napa Gamay and Gamay Beaujolais for wines made from this grape. It is easy to see why it was confused with Gamay however. Like Gamay, it ripens fairly late, sometimes into November, at low sugar levels but great acidity and produces wines that are bright, fresh and full of berry fruit that can be both easy to drink but are often reminiscent of juicy pinot noir.

WINEMAKING:

Fermented in open top stainless steel fermenters, around 25% wholecluster and the remaining destemmed. Fermentation occurred naturally by wild yeast. Punchdowns were done by hand throughout fermentation, starting with once per day, up to three times per day during the peak of fermentation, and then back down to one until completely dry. Pressed to neutral French oak barrels, spontaneous full malo-lactic fermentation, then aged almost one year before bottling. Six barrels produced. 14.7% ABV

THE WINE:

Berries, berries and even more berries. Red plum with a hint of cherry. Juicy like just fresh out of the garden fruit. It is wonderful straight out of the bottle but chilled on a hot summer day it really sings.

