



The Vineyard: The Korte Ranch vineyard located just north of St. Helena is one of the most distinctive Zinfandel vineyards in Napa Valley. The gnarly old head pruned, dry farmed vines date back to 1886 and are planted where the eastern and western hillsides meet. The beautiful property is perfectly suited for high quality grape growing from the cool morning and nighttime temperatures to the poor soils of rocky, loamy benchland, which help make wine of unique, bold character. Owners Jack and Kathy Pagendarm are the fourth generation of their family to own and farm the ranch, “**The Watchers**” of the vines. We select grapes from what we call the Old Block, whose vines are the oldest on the property with the youngest vines in the block being planted around 1910. We first saw this property in 2006 when Adam was working with Ray Coursen at Elyse Winery and knew then there was something magical about the place and the fruit from these old vines. We did not officially consider Gardienne des Vignes a reality until we had secured a handshake deal to purchase a ton of Zinfandel fruit from this storied vineyard. It is truly an honor to work with the Pagendarm family and their historic vineyard as we begin a new piece of history.

Winemaking: The Zinfandel grapes from Korte Ranch are so unique and distinctively flavored our job in stewarding the grapes to wine is to capture that very essence with as gentle handling as possible. The grapes were hand picked in the early morning. We gently de-stemmed the fruit in to French Oak Puncheons for cold soak and primary fermentation using only native yeasts. The Puncheons were rolled three times a day for approximately three weeks after which the wine was pressed in to French and American Oak Barrels, 50% new, for malo-lactic fermentation and aging. The wine aged on its lees in barrel for 24 months was racked and bottled unfiltered.

The Wine: The 2013 displays a brilliant ruby color with bright aromatics of juicy red fruits, starting with wild strawberries, black raspberries to pommegranate and black cherry. The exuberant fruit is rounded out by touches of white pepper, cigar box, savory spices and vanilla cream. Medium- full bodied in style with a rich texture that coats the palate in lavish fruit flavors and intriguing spices. Shows power, purity and a lively acidity with powdery, dusty tannins providing structure while maintaining a deft balance through the intense and lengthy finish. **(125 Cases Produced)**

