



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.

2011 MENDO BLENDO

MENDOCINO COUNTY



Primary Vineyard

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

Dark-toned fruit aromas laced with a subtle blend of fresh strawberry, leather, smoked meat and striations of oak create an intriguing entry to this lively blend. Dark, concentrated fruit flows across the palate from front to finish, revealing a mix of raspberry, cherry, pomegranate, rhubarb and more. Delicious snippets of dark chocolate nestle among the intense berry flavors. A firm structure cradles the wine, and steps backwards as it opens.

Give this wine some cellar time, or decant if enjoyed while young. It has the character to stand up to a robust beef stew, a rack of ribs or an all-meat pizza with extra cheese, but can also pair nicely with butternut squash and leek paella or eggplant lasagna.

Technical Data

Composition:

<u>Varietal</u>	<u>Harvest Dates</u>
52% Petite Sirah	October 3
43% Syrah	October 17
3% Carignane	October 24
2% Grenache	October 18

Vineyard:	100% Tollini Vineyard
Appellation:	Redwood Valley, Mendocino County
Alcohol:	13.2%
pH:	3.52
TA:	0.73g/100ml
Barrel Aging:	20 months
Types of Oak:	30% new American oak barrels 40% 3-5 year-old French oak barrels 30% 6-8 year-old neutral mixed oak barrels
Bottling Date:	April 23, 2013 (unfined & unfiltered)
Production:	500 cases
Release Date:	January 2014