

THE LOST COLONY

RED WINE 2014 SONOMA COUNTY

The hope of a new world. A struggling settlement. The clash of two civilizations. He took to the oceans again to save them, but when he returned, they had vanished. Traces of a bloody battle. One cryptic clue. A signal from a desperate mother of her infant child's fate. Where had she gone? Had all been lost?



VIRGINIA DARE WINERY

Virginia Dare Winery celebrates the myths, people, places, and history that have shaped American winemaking. In the heart of California wine country, we make American wine the way it's always been made: by taking the best the land has to give us and nurturing the quality and character of our fruit from vineyard to bottle.

HISTORY

The Lost Colony is inspired by one of the great mysteries in American history, a disappearance that set the stage for the origin story of American wine. In 1587, Governor John White and 118 English colonists landed on Roanoke Island (now part of North Carolina), and set about establishing a permanent colony. A month later, White's daughter gave birth to a baby girl. She was christened Virginia Dare, the first child of English parentage born in the New World. But times were hard for her struggling colony. Governor White made a trip back to England, vowing to return promptly with aid, but he was delayed for three years by England's war with Spain. When he finally returned, there was nobody there—the colony was lost without a trace. What had happened? Where were any survivors? To this day, The Lost Colony remains a mystery. Nobody really knows what transpired, but it was rumored that a fair-haired baby girl was sometimes seen playing among the children of the Croatoan people. Was she Virginia Dare?

VINTAGE NOTES

The 2014 vintage was excellent—one of those lovely vintages that viticulturists and winemakers love. Pest pressures were at a minimum and the vintage started off slightly early, progressed smoothly, and ended a bit early as well. The red varietals in the 2014 vintage were especially expressive and concentrated, with big berry tones evident. Due to the fact that it takes a number of years of repeated low annual rainfall to have a significant effect on overall growing, the 2014 vintage was unscathed by California's ongoing drought conditions. Around the vineyard, we're calling 2014 a "three-peat," as it comes on the heels of two prior fantastic vintages. It was a lovely year all around.

WINEMAKER NOTES

"2014 was the biggest and earliest vintage I've seen in my long career. The Malbec and Syrah showed very well and had excellent balance and concentration. Malbec gives spice and mineral tone, and contributes red stone-fruit flavors. The Syrah draws out the fruits' forwardness and gives the wine its moderate weight on the palate, making an elegant complement to the Malbec." —Sandy Walheim

TASTING NOTES

A sophisticated red blend of Malbec and Syrah sourced from Dry Creek Valley, one of Sonoma County's warmest appellations. Bright, lifted flavors of red and black stone-fruit are at the heart of the 2014 vintage's graceful profile. Oak aging and varietal selection create an element of exoticism, with aromas of wood spice and sandalwood. A concentrated, fruit-forward choice with moderate tannins makes THE LOST COLONY an endlessly intriguing red that is both versatile and elegant.

Year:
2014

Appellation:
Dry Creek Valley
Blend:

45% Syrah, 37% Malbec, 7% Petite Sirah,
7% Cabernet Franc, 4% Petit Verdot

Alcohol:
13.8%

Barrel Regimen:
14 months in French and American oak;
10% new oak, 90% 1- and 2-year oak

Winemaker:
Sandy Walheim

