2016 California Red Wine Blend

More than twenty-five years ago, Conundrum White broke new ground as a blend that was exotic, versatile and wholly original. In 2011, we continued the tradition of breaking tradition with the launch of Conundrum Red, a wine created from dark red varietals that manages to be both playful and serious.

Conundrum’s original inspiration came from Charlie Wagner Sr., co-founder of Caymus Vineyards, who would sit at the dining room table and mix different wines to come up with something new to pair with his meal. We still work to live up to his example. In addition to Conundrum White and Red, we introduced both Conundrum Rosé and Sparkling in 2016.

Like our other Conundrum wines, Conundrum Red is sourced from premier winegrowing regions in California, featuring dark red varietals including Petite Sirah, Zinfandel and Cabernet Sauvignon. It is a wine of structure, richness and complexity that is also down-to-earth, smooth and approachable. Just as it opens up new possibilities for winemaking, Conundrum Red creates endless options for food pairings. It is a perfect complement to richly flavored or spicy foods like spaghetti Bolognese; Asian or Indian cuisine; Mexican tacos or fajitas; smoked meats; and of course, BBQ (meaning pretty much anything that fits on a grill).

We recommend drinking Conundrum Red slightly chilled – this not only enhances the fruit profile and structure of the wine, but makes it a great choice for any time of year. More important, you’ll discover yet another reason to believe in the rewards of doing things your own way.

**Tasting Notes:** With a deep, inky hue almost as dark as blackberries, this wine opens on the nose with scents of chocolatey coffee, sweet oak, fresh plums, floral blossoms and the earthiness of a forest floor. The palate starts off soft, then turns grippy – it peaks with a combination of fruit and textural tannins, before being dominated by the character of ripe berries and plums. As the finish tapers off with the taste of blackberries, spicy notes add complexity to every sip.

Charlie Wagner, Director of Winemaking