

# A NEW RED WINE BLEND from the family that created Caymus

The Walking Fool was born from our excitement about Suisun Valley - and honors one of our long-ago relatives, a man we think would be pleased by this new wine. We first began exploring Suisun ("su-soon") Valley about ten years ago. While separated from Napa only by an invisible county line, this small but exceptional wine region was unknown to us. We were immediately drawn in by its unique character and the extremely high quality of its fruit.

We quickly found ourselves driving as often as possible "over the hill" from Napa to Suisun, as we learned about its pastoral landscape, multi-generational family farmers and ideal growing conditions for a wide range of grape varietals. Over time, we set our sights on producing a red wine blend that would feature Zinfandel farmed in Suisun, along with Petite Sirah and other red varietals from the region. This wine became The Walking Fool.

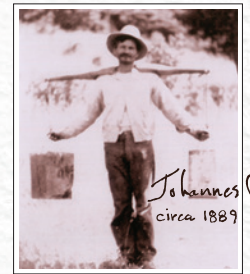
## WHO IS THE WALKING FOOL?

Johannes Gros (my great-great grandfather) inspired the name of this wine. Arriving in Napa Valley in the 1800s, he homesteaded with his family on Howell Mountain, working hard and living a simple life.

Johannes and his wife AnnaMaria lost four children, yet from everything we have learned, he remained good-natured. He was regularly seen walking from his home down to work in the valley's wineries below. For this reason, he became affectionately known by the nickname "The Walking Fool."

Beyond the name of this wine, we wanted to honor Johannes by putting his image on the label. While we live in a different time, we share some things in common. We too are often on foot. Walking a vineyard is key to being able to assess its potential.

At the same time, we think Johannes would like Suisun Valley, which reminds us of Napa Valley in the early days of Caymus Vineyards: full of family farmers and outstanding vineyard land.



Johannes Gros  
circa 1889

The label of this wine is based on an old photo of Johannes - we still have the wooden yoke he is seen carrying, and his half-grin and cock of the head capture his lighthearted personality.

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# CAYMUS SUISUN

# The Walking Fool

2020 RED WINE BLEND SUISUN VALLEY

# THE ENDLESS POTENTIAL OF SUISUN VALLEY

We are extremely fortunate that Suisun Valley now feels like a second home. About one-sixth the size of Napa Valley, Suisun became an AVA in 1982, only one year after Napa Valley. It shares a remarkably similar topography and maritime climate, with warm days and cool nights – an environment that enables grapes to thrive (and people tend to like too). Suisun was long known for its delicious stone fruits and walnuts, but its soils are also ideal for a wide range of grapes.

Both Zinfandel and Petite Sirah – the two base wines in the Walking Fool blend – flourish in Suisun Valley. Zinfandel is especially well-suited to the hillside, where soils are rockier. We mostly crown-prune our Zin, meaning that there is no trellis. This technique has become increasingly rare, but we believe cultivates a natural balance of fruit on the vine, leading to a distinct character. We also dry farm most of our Zin, which creates struggle in the vines and leads to more intense fruit.

Petite Sirah grows especially well in richer soils, which are abundant in Suisun, making this a hallmark grape of the region. Several years ago, we introduced Caymus-Suisun Grand Durif – a luxuriously soft, rich expression of Petite Sirah. Putting Caymus on the label reflected our belief in this wine's origins and quality.

This spring, we were thrilled to open Caymus-Suisun Winery in the heart of Suisun Valley. We hope people will visit not just us, but our neighbors. A diverse group of family farmers and vintners, many have been in the area for generations. We look forward to joining them in helping people discover the amazing Suisun Valley for themselves.



## AGING AND STYLE

The Walking Fool has a distinct style and vibrant character. It has been aged for 16 months in a blend of French and American oak (both new and neutral barrels). The use of American oak sets this wine apart from the other red wines we produce – adding interest especially to the nose, with its fresh, rustic scents and almost flamboyant oak presence.

## TASTING NOTES

A vivid royal red, this wine features eclectic scents of sweet leather, cigar box, a hint of thyme, potpourri, rustic wood and notes of cherry and blueberry. Entry is lively and slightly untamed, with a dance on the palate of cherry, plum, chocolates filled with liqueur, and freshly baked bread. A softness on the palate expands and builds, along with a grippy roundness from this wine's smooth tannins. The finish reprises elements from the nose and palate, as traces of vibrant fruit mingle with luxurious chocolate and liqueur.

*Jonny Wray*  
Winemaker

