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2016 Skinner 'Smithereens' Red Blend product-timed-pdf - El Dorado, CA - 90 Points Wine Enthusiast!

Why We're Drinking It

Wine Enthusiast, 90 Points: *Exotic and intensely fruity aromas lead to equally vivid fruit flavors that are well matched by moderate tannins and good acidity. Black plum and macerated cherry join hints of cedar and clove for a complex and satisfying flavor profile.*

Dominantly Grenache (51%), Mourvedre (31%), Syrah, Counoise and Petite Sirah. Raised for 21 months in almost entirely neutral french oak. Red fruit aromatics of strawberry and cherry and cranberry with herbal notes of wild sage and fennel seed. The palate is only moderately rich and full with an overall impression of balance and restraint, a very slightly grainy tannic structure giving relief to the ripe and luscious red and black fruit.

VARIETAL

Red Blend

ALCOHOL

12.50

SIZE

750ml

BLEND

Red Blend

The Story to Know

The legacy of Skinner Vineyards and its wine goes back more than a century and a half, but the story starts on a sunny summer day in 2006. Kevin and Kathy Skinner are young, outdoorsy people and were heading home to Santa Cruz from Lake Tahoe. Kathy is a teacher and has a thing for maps. On an old dog-eared road atlas, she saw something – a spot on the map called Skinners, CA in the low foothills next to a town called Rescue.

They detoured to Rescue, stopped at a small shopping center, and asked folks in stores about the name. Many people knew the history: A Scottish miner named James Skinner had done well during the Gold Rush, bought land, planted vineyards, and started a winery and distillery at that very spot.

They pointed Kevin and Kathy to ground with markers on a knoll looking over the area. The plot was a century-old cemetery called Skinner Ranch Cemetery. Kevin called his dad, Mike, sent pictures, and asked, “Are we related?”

Mike had no idea, but was instantly drawn to the mystery. He contacted the Pioneer Cemetery Commission, and it turns out that they did! They sent him a family tree:

It started with James Skinner, then came his first son, James Jr. The second James also had a first son named James. The third James named his first son Frank Edward Skinner. Mike knew that name. Frank Edward Skinner was Mike’s grandfather. The original James who settled the lush spot and planted one of California’s first commercial vineyards was Mike’s great, great, great grandfather.

“I suddenly had a big family history and a huge legacy to live up to....I was the first son of the first son!” Mike says. “I still get goosebumps when I tell the story.”

Passion doesn’t begin to describe Mike’s excitement about the history and the land. By the end of 2006, Mike and his wife, Carey, had bought property in “Skinners” and started planting their own vineyards. In 2007, they acquired more

vineyards and land also in El Dorado County on a ridge top on the steep green hills around Fair Play. They began building the latest stage of the family legacy: the now acclaimed Skinner Vineyards & Winery.
