



2003 OLD VINE ZINFANDEL

Wine Enthusiast - "93 POINTS" – EDITORS' CHOICE

November 15, 2006

"Top 100 Wines of 2006"

The primary source of this Zin is from Dry Creek Valley. It's rare to find this quality and quantity of upfront fruit in a Zin that's so balanced, but here it is. Massive raspberry, cherry, blackberry, mocha and Asian spice flavors, with buttery, smoky oak notes. Just delicious. Drink now.

San Francisco Wine Competition 2006 GOLD MEDAL

Connoisseurs' Guide to California Wine - "88 POINTS – ONE PUFF"

October 2006

Both this wine and its mate (Heritage Zinfandel) are on the riper, heavier side than the Somers Ranch bottling, and it is all down to the livelier acids found in the lead wine. Of these two, we like this one a little more for its direct, ripe, spicy expression of the marriage between Zin berries and Petite Sirah seasonings. It is tannic, to be sure, and will either want service with savory foods now or time to soften.

Colorado Wine News

July – September 2006

Contains 19% petite sirah and was aged for 20 months in French and American oak. It has forward aromas of licorice and oak before flavors of dark chocolate, licorice and oak which finish showing some alcohol at the end.

2002 OLD VINE ZINFANDEL

Quarterly Review of Wines - “★★★★★ 5 STARS” – BEST OF BEST

Spring 2006

81 percent Zinfandel (from 80- to 109-year-old vines) and 19 percent Petite Sirah. Ripe, round, spicy, well-knit, wild berry, chocolate and toasty oak flavors.

The Wine Report - “90 POINTS” – ABOVE-AVERAGE VALUE

October 2005

A dark black wine with a “gorgeous purple rim” provided “fruit tones of berries and raisins with black pepper that are front and center.” This wine made sure not to hide its swirling herbaceous notes that mingled with succulent blackberries, cedar and molasses. Its long, peppery, spicy finish left the panel wanting more.

Food friendliness: Bring this to your next dinner party or savor it at home with rib-eye steak or pancetta-wrapped beef tenderloin.

Wine Enthusiast - “90 POINTS”

November 15, 2005

From century-old vines, mainly in Dry Creek Valley, this is a big Zin, jam-packed with purple-and black-skinned stone fruits and berries. The wine is certainly tannic now, and extremely dry. It will be okay now with rich meats and cheeses, but probably better in 2006.

Colorado Wine News

October – December 2005

81% zinfandel and 19% petite sirah. It was aged for 15 months in French and American oak and has an inviting bouquet of grape, blackberry, raspberry, cherry and currant. All repeat in the reverse order and led by spice as big, smooth flavors laced with dusty tannin. The vines for this wine are from 80 – 109 years old.

2001 OLD VINE ZINFANDEL

Robert M. Parker, Jr.’s - “89 POINTS”

THE WINE ADVOCATE

October 31, 2003

Issue 149

One of my favorite Zinfandel producers, Dry Creek routinely turns out elegant, classy efforts.

The nearly outstanding 2001 Zinfandel Old Vines (includes 20% Petite Sirah) exhibits a deep ruby color in addition to an attractive, elegant bouquet of strawberries, cherries, loamy soil, and oak aromas. Medium-bodied, well-textured, and pure, it should be consumed over the next 4-5 years.

Wine Enthusiast - “88 POINTS”

November 2003

Toast, vanilla and spice kick off here, followed by pretty cherry, plum, blackberry and herb flavors. Tannins are smooth and the finish offers a smoky rich edge.

Connoisseurs’ Guide to California Wine - “87 POINTS – ONE PUFF”

January 2004

With its fairly forward aromas of ripe berries, sweet spice and dusty earth, this comparatively accessible Zinfandel seems a bit ahead of the curve with respect to development, and its fruity, slightly dry, mildly spicy flavors are similarly open and easy to appreciate. A bit of acid pops up at the end and highlights a touch of tannin, and while it will not fade away anytime soon, we like this one for drinking now.

Decanter - “★★★★ 4 STARS”

September 2005

Lean, lively, herbal aromas. Graceful but intense, light tannin, bright and peppery.

San Diego National Wine Competition 2004 GOLD MEDAL

Oxford Wineroom.com/Julian Schultz

November 15, 2003

Wine pick: Dry Creek Old Vines Zinfandel 2001, \$21, blended with 15 percent Petite Sirah. A big, lush, imposing 14.3 percent alcohol beauty from averaged 85-year-old vines, it offers aromas of blackberries, raspberries and smacks of cloves. Berry flavors flood the palate with hints of earth, spice and coffee. Oak aged for 16 months, the zin has underpinning of vanilla and soft wood. Dry Creek never disappoints, has been a frequent Wine Pick here.

Colorado Wine News

January – March 2004

Contains 15% petite sirah. It was aged in French and American oak barrels for 16 months and has a very inviting and smoky bouquet of black raspberry, chocolate, caramel, and black cherry. All repeat as flavors with the fruit somewhat tart and joined by moderate tannins. It finishes medium-broad and medium-long. Zippy, balanced, integrated, well structured, and a good buy.

Indianapolis Star - “SELECTIONS”

January 28, 2004

by Jill A. Ditmire

February events cater to wine lovers

Intense, jammy, delicious. Soft black fruit nose gives way to mouth-filling, silky, lingering lush flavors of blackberry, raspberry and cocoa. Over-the-top, maybe. Delicious, definitely.

Nation’s Restaurant News - “WINE OF THE WEEK”

November 17, 2003

Mary Ewing-Mulligan and Ed McCarthy ON WINE

Dry Creek Vineyard is a Zinfandel specialist, producing no less than four different red Zins, including two small-quantity, single-vineyard wines. Its “Old Vines” Zinfandel, a blend of several vineyards with an average age of more than 50 years, is a rich, intense yet elegant wine that will not overpower your entrée with tannin and excessive alcohol. It even works with full-flavored fish, such as striped bass or monkfish.

California Grapevine – “HIGHLY RECOMMENDED”

December 2003 – January 2004

Medium-dark ruby with purplish tinges; forward, toasty, cedary, plummy, ripe black cherry and blackberry fruit aroma with notes of tar, clove, and tobacco; full body; rich, earthy, concentrated, textured, cedary, somewhat jammy, dark currant and berry fruit flavors; full tannin; lingering aftertaste.

Fort Worth Business Press - “WINE OF THE WEEK”

September 10 -16, 2004

We’re reminded of a rustic farmland wine – one that has an earthy aroma such as you might smell when walking into an old barn. But then a sip is startling...like a young man who has cleaned up his act to impress his girlfriend. Still a touch rough and unshaven, but that’s the hint of spice and mild tannins in a masculine sense.
