



2008 HERITAGE ZINFANDEL

Decanter - “★★★ - THREE STARS”

September 2011

Cherry and damson nose. Ripe and juicy, concentrated but fresh, with light tannins. Lively and long.

The Press Democrat – “★★★★ - FOUR STARS”

April 27, 2011

A snappy zin with layered flavors. Notes of cherry, berry, anise and pepper. Has good structure. Balanced.

Connoisseurs’ Guide to California Wine - “89 POINTS”

January 2011

Nicely crafted, genuinely juicy blackberryish fruit buttressed by suggestions of caramelly oak makes the early going here, and the wine follows on the palate with medium-full and slightly fleshy impressions. There is enough underlying acidity to keep the proceedings alive, but this one impresses as an open, drink now wine.

Wine Spectator

October 26, 2010

One thing I like about living in Sonoma County is the stubbornly independent streak of its vintners. They do what they do, trends be damned, and if you don’t like it—tough! Case in point is Dry Creek Vineyard. It helped set the standard for Sonoma Zinfandel and has remained true to the house style over the years while maintaining a modest price point.

The Sonoma County Heritage 2008 is everything I like about the winery’s Zins—it’s zesty and full of deep plum and black raspberry fruit, finishing with notes of cedar and dill and lively tannins. It packs only 13.5 percent alcohol, well below the current norm.

Winemaker Bill Knuttel blends Dry Creek and Russian River Valley fruit, mostly from bench lands and hillsides. The blend is 82 percent Zin, with 18 percent Petite Sirah to add punch. He ages it for 10 months in a mix of American and French oak barrels. I opened a bottle with pasta in marinara sauce on a recent chilly, rainy night and rated it 88 points, non-blind. Best of all, it’s only \$19.

2007 HERITAGE ZINFANDEL

Wine Enthusiast Magazine - “87 POINTS”

August 2009

Powerful in Zinny character, this blend of Dry Creek and Russian River grapes bursts with brawny flavors of wild berries, chocolate-covered mint, tobacco and pepper, wrapped into sturdy tannins. Shows real class and character.

Wine Spectator - “87 POINTS”

June 30, 2009

Zesty and easy to drink, with spicy cherry aromas and lively flavors of wild berry, fresh pepper and sage. Drink now through 2012.

Connoisseurs’ Guide to California Wine - “86 POINTS”

May 2009

Here is a nervy young wine that wants for a bit of age in which to unfold, for while it sports a fair measure of lively, young berry-like fruit, it is still stiff at the edges and relatively withdrawn. That said, it has real Zinfandel credentials, and it might yet claim a star with another year or two in the cellar.

Colorado Wine News

April – June 2009

Spent nine months in French and American oak, 39% new, and the final blend contains 13% petite sirah. Aromas of smoke, sweet black raspberry, plum, and clove repeat as flavors laced with very fine tannin and nice acidity and finish medium-broad and medium-long. Well balanced, structured, and integrated. It will be popular.

California Grapevine - “HIGHLY RECOMMENDED”

April – May 2009

Medium to medium-dark ruby; attractive, fragrant, spicy, red berry fruit aroma; full body; textured, cedary, briary, red berry fruit flavors with an initially plush mouthfeel followed by some harshness on the chalky finish; full tannin; lingering aftertaste.

Dan Berger's Vintage Experiences - "EXCEPTIONAL"

April 2009

Wild spice, characteristic of a cooler climate, with generosity and lovely raspberry flavors. Only 13.5% alcohol (!), and it really responds to decanting. A bargain!

2006 HERITAGE ZINFANDEL

Dan Berger's Vintage Experiences - "EXCEPTIONAL"

November 27, 2008

Lovely spice and blackberry, violet, and low-oak notes make for a delicious wine that goes nicely with pizza, pasta or other full-flavored foods.

The Wine News - "90 POINTS"

November 2008

Dense crimson hue. Reserved scents of blackberry, wild cherry and vanilla. Creamy flavors of black cherry and raspberry. Velvety tannins and hints of brown sugar and cherry cola carry the close.

Wine Enthusiast Magazine - "88 POINTS"

August 2008

Dry Creek's basic Zin is a dark, big, softly tannic wine, the kind beloved by Zinfanatics. The flavors of blackberries, boysenberries, loganberries and many other red and black berries flood the mouth, with a spicy finish of chocolate and caramel.
