



OLD VINE ZINFANDEL

2014 OLD VINE ZINFANDEL – *Dry Creek Valley*

SUNSET INTERNATIONAL
WINE COMPETITION
October 2017

Gold Medal - The Best Wines of the Year - For 30 vintages this producer has made old-vine Zinfandel and this one checks all the right boxes; juicy and brambly red and black fruit, baking spice, molasses, white pepper, supple tannins and a long, generous finish.

WINE SPECTATOR
January 2017

90 Points - Appealingly briary, with floral raspberry and pepper aromas, and zesty, well-focused black cherry, licorice and underbrush flavors. Drink now through 2025.

WINE ENTHUSIAST
June 2017

92 Points - Blended with 19% Petite Sirah and 3% Carignane, from vines averaging 50-plus-years of age, this is a bold and brambly wine, laced in elegance. Coffee, leather and a taste of caramel are seasoned in allspice and black pepper, as persistent, sinewy tannins provide weight and heft.

WINE & SPIRITS
June 2017

94 Points - Tim Bell made this 2014 primarily from four centenarian vineyards, including Beeson Ranch, a relatively cool east-facing site planted against Dry Creek's western hills. This seems to draw quite a bit of its character from the Petite Sirah component of the blend, which mostly comes from Beeson's old vines – the oldest date to the 1880s. The result is a Zin with a tooth-staining purple color, the structure firm and tannic. It's cool rather than jammy, maybe because the dry, early vintage was untouched by any blistering heat waves, maybe because the old dry-farmed vines tempered the effects of the drought. The intense blue fruit – wild blueberry amplified by juniper and cassis – seems to want to explode into sunny juiciness, yet feels pulled back by the soil-scented cool of the tannins. This feels fresh, intense and balanced to age – cellar a case to watch it evolve over the next two decades.

LAST UPDATE: NOVEMBER 2017