



2015 “Z” ZINFANDEL

Massoni Ranch, Amador County

Grower: Sue Fox

Zinfandel is famous for the wide variety of wines it is capable of producing. For The University of California and Sotheby's "Book of California Wine", Paul Draper, winemaker at Ridge Vineyards, contributed an essay in which he outlined and described eight different styles Zinfandel was capable of producing; from sparkling wine cuvee to port. There wasn't much Zinfandel couldn't do. The versatility of Zinfandel is wonderful, but it is also a significant liability. Once someone thinks they know what to expect from a wine labeled Zinfandel they get the proverbial curveball. Our "Z" Zinfandel was our first contribution to the world of classic red wines. That is to say, there is no residual sugar here, no prune overripe nonsense. "Z" is a wine produced to provide classic red wine characters; good color, distinctive aromas, rich flavors and balanced tannins, and at an alcohol level expected of a table wine.

The 2015 wine has a purple color of substantial depth and the hues are a youthfully bright garnet. The aroma is loaded with classic Zinfandel fruit; black raspberry, dark cherry and boysenberry. The bouquet has a hazelnut and nutmeg scent contributed by the small oak barrels that aged this wine for fourteen months. The flavors are juicy, luscious, and round. They feature succulent red currants, dark raspberry and toasted oak. This wine has a full satisfyingly viscous mouth feel. This is unique in that it comes in a wine with mature and fully integrated tannins that provide texture but not astringency. We work exceptionally hard to produce Zinfandel that is fully flavored and ready to enjoy upon release. This is my favorite wine to accompany lamb dishes, but will enhance other red meats as well as Mediterranean cuisine.

Varietal Composition: 92% Zinfandel 8% Petite Sirah, 14.7% Alc., 7.4 g/L TA, 3.35 pH
Oak Regime: 35% American Oak 49% French Oak 16% Neutral Oak
Released: March 1, 2017 1,400 Cases Produced Suggested Retail Price: \$25