



## 2012 “Z” ZINFANDEL

### Massoni Ranch, Amador County

The “Z” Zinfandel comes from grapes grown on the Massoni Ranch in Amador County’s Shenandoah Valley. This region is renowned for its hearty Zinfandels; rich full flavored wines with ripe flavors, rustic tannins and often heady alcohol levels. Given this the “Z” Zinfandel is a bit of an anomaly. We go to great lengths to preserve the black raspberry character of the Zinfandel grape and provide flavors that are balanced with a measured level of extract and alcohol. It is the development of classic Zinfandel flavor in the grapes at lower sugar levels that was one of the initial attractions of the Massoni Ranch fruit. This has allowed us to produce a Zinfandel that I like to refer to as my ‘Pinot Noir’ of Zinfandels because it has a velvety texture and soft, smooth, and mature tannins.

The 2012 wine has a deep purple color of substantial depth that is due to the inclusion of 15% Petite Sirah in the final blend. The hues are a youthfully bright garnet. The aroma is loaded with black raspberry, dark cherry and boysenberry. For the 2012 vintage, we introduced almost 20% older neutral barrels into the aging profile. This has put a bit more emphasis on the wine’s aroma but there are still significant notes of vanilla and hazelnut to the bouquet. The flavors are round and luscious and feature succulent red currants, raspberry and deeply toasted almost smoky oak. This wine has a thick, almost oily, viscosity we have not seen in years. This exceptional body comes with mature integrated tannins which only add to the wine’s velvety texture. This is one of the most substantial “Z” Zinfandels we have ever produced. The depth of flavor along with good acidity indicates that this wine will reward those, that can provide it with a year or two in the cellar, with additional nuances to both the flavor and bouquet.

Varietal Composition: 85% Zinfandel 15% Petite Sirah, 15.0% Alc., 7.6 g/L TA, 3.30 pH  
Oak Regime: 43% American Oak 39% French Oak 18% Neutral Oak  
Released: January 1, 2014 1,340 Cases Produced

Retail Price: \$24 Wine Club Price: \$20.40