



# Jeff Runquist WINES



Zinfandel is famous for the wide variety of wine styles 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 suitable for Zinfandel; 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 monster tannins, no overripe stewed fruit 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 2018 wine has a ruby purple color of significant depth with hues that are a bright, almost florescent, garnet. The Massoni Ranch produces wines with aromas loaded with classic Zinfandel fruit; black raspberry, dark cherry and boysenberry, and the 2018 vintage is no exception. The clean focused fruit reminds me of walking past a blackberry briar at the peak of maturity. Aging this wine in small oak barrels provides it with a bouquet of toast, vanilla, and caramel. Flavors of red raspberry, currants and toasty oak are delivered by a wine with a creamy luscious texture. Our goal is for the wine to have a rich satisfying viscosity without harsh drying tannins, and the 2018 "Z" is one of our best efforts in this regard. In the finish, juicy red fruits linger well along with a pleasant background of oak. This is my favorite wine to accompany lamb dishes, but will enhance other red meats as well as Mediterranean cuisine.

*Varietal Composition: 91% Zinfandel, 9% Petite Sirah • 14.9% Alc., 6.9 g/L TA, 3.39 pH*  
*Oak Regime: 24% American Oak, 56% French Oak, 10% Neutral Oak*

Released: May 1, 2020

970 Cases Produced

Suggested Retail Price: \$26