



Peirano Estate Vineyards 1999 Old Vine Zinfandel The Heritage Collection Estate Grown, Lodi

Vineyard Notes:

1999 will go down in the history books as one of the coolest summers seen in Lodi in decades. In fact, June, July and August were cooler than September, October and November. Because of this, we had exceptionally long hang time for the fruit, giving it the chance to develop layers of flavors. Combine that with the low yield of our 96-year-old Zinfandel vines, and you can see why we were so excited by the intensity of the fruit. Plus, with 75 acres of what is the largest single block of head trained, natural rooted Zinfandel in the country, we had the opportunity to truly hand select the “cream” of the crop, making several passes through the block during the optimal ripeness window in September of 1999. This is to ensure the fruit going in remains true to form for our flagship wine.

Winemaker Notes:

After hand-picking into half ton bins for the most delicate transporting of the fruit, the grapes were lightly crushed into the tank for fermentation. Fermented on the skins to dryness, it was then pressed and placed in French oak barrels, of which less than 20% were new wood. Aging in this way for 12 months, it was important to maintain and uplift all of the fruit components while using the oak to support each flavor to its fullest. After bottling, it was allowed further aging time to micro-mingle its flavors so each bottle is a full expression of the monarch of Lodi wines – Old Vine Zinfandel.

Tasting Notes:

The deceptively subtle aromas of this wine combine dark plum, licorice, anise, black tea and cherry tobacco. In the mouth, the palate is wrapped in a velvety mix of plum, bay leaf, cherry and anise, with smooth, chiseled tannins, leading to a lengthy, almost breathless finish. This is a wine for great food, friends and conversation, or an intimate meal for two by a flickering fire. Whichever your pleasure, our Old Vine Zinfandel will make it memorable.

“... the wine is a lush, rich, complex red that’s memorable.”

Bob Hosmon, *South Florida Sun-Sentinel/Knight-Rider-Tribune Newspapers*