

UNTI

DRY CREEK VALLEY
ZINFANDEL
1999

84% ZINFANDEL 10% SYRAH
3% PETITE SIRAH 3% SANGIOVESE

GROWN, PRODUCED AND BOTTLED
BY UNTI VINEYARDS HEALDSBURG CA

ALCOHOL 14.1% BY VOLUME

1999 ZINFANDEL

Vineyard: This Zinfandel comes from five acres of six-year-old vines on our Dry Creek Bench ranch. It is an old clone Zinfandel producing small berries and short bunches. The vines are cordon-trained on a vertical trellis system to assist ripening and minimize bunch rot. We routinely clip the wing bunch off of our Zinfandel to help concentrate flavors in the remaining grapes. A portion of the Zinfandel grapes is from our twenty-five-year-old head pruned vineyard.

Vintage/Harvest: As one well-known local winemaker put it "If you couldn't make a good Zinfandel in Dry Creek this year, you probably should stop trying." A lower than normal crop set, a cool growing season and a warm dry September provided our finest vintage Zinfandel to date. The grapes had achieved physiological ripeness (they tasted like berry fruit roll-ups) when we harvested in early October at 24.5-degree brix.

Vinification: Grapes were destemmed but not crushed into both open top and closed top stainless steel tanks. After a two-day cold soak the must was inoculated with Syrah yeast, pumped over twice daily and pressed immediately upon dryness after 9 days. We blended Syrah and Petite Sirah for color and structure. The wine was bottled unfiltered.

Oak: We used a little more new oak this year, both French and American: 85% French Oak, 15% American; 30% new, 30% one-year-old barrels. I'm finding that three-year-old air dried American Oak is quite compatible with our Zinfandel.

Style: Richer and fatter than any Zin we've made before, though still in a classic Dry Creek style. There is a sweet mid palate – even though the wine is totally dry – that I look for in Zin. This wine should improve over the next 12 months, and as always, we recommend drinking it within the next 2-3 years.

Harvested: 10/9/99
Total acidity: .59 gm/100ml
pH: 3.74
Alcohol: 14.1%
Blend: 84% Zinfandel, 10% Syrah,
3% Petite Sirah, 3% Sangiovese

Cases produced: 1,480
Bottled: unfiltered 9/5/00
Release Date: 3/01

\$19.00 Bottle
\$205.20 Case