

# 2000 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:** 2000 was a quirky growing season. Extreme heat waves in June and July, followed by an unseasonably cool August and a warm September exacerbated Zinfandel's traditional problem with inconsistent ripening. It wasn't uncommon to have grapes on the same bunch range from 22° to 27° brix. The result is a wine with striking peppery aromas and flavors typical of less than ripe Zinfandel, yet with the alcohol level of fully ripe Zin. It was not easy to make a balanced Zinfandel in 2000.

**Vinification:** Grapes were destemmed but not crushed into both open top and closed top stainless steel tanks. After a 5-day cold soak the must was inoculated with Syrah yeast, pumped over twice daily and pressed immediately upon dryness. The Zinfandel's delicate nature and high alcohol forced us to use more Petite Sirah than Syrah when blending for color and structure this year. The Petite was considerably lower in alcohol than the Syrah, adding much-needed balance to the wine. The wine was bottled unfined with minimal filtration.

**Oak:** 85% French, 15% American, with one third new. We used a wider variety of new French oak in 2000 which adds complexity. It was aged in barrel for 12 months.

**Style:** Similar to our 1997 Zinfandel, this wine has exotic floral and pepper aromas followed by bright, fruity and spicy flavors – classic Dry Creek Zin. It's medium to full-bodied with great balance making it downright gulpable from mid-2002 to 2004.

**Harvested:** 10/1 and 10/9/00  
**Total acidity:** .57 gm/100ml  
**pH:** 3.71  
**Blend:** 83% Zinfandel, 5% Syrah,  
12% Petite Sirah

**Alcohol:** 14.3%  
**Bottled:** 9/6/01  
**Cases produced:** 1,350

# UNTI

DRY CREEK VALLEY

ZINFANDEL

2000

83% ZINFANDEL  
12% PETITE SIRAH 5% SYRAH

GROWN, PRODUCED AND BOTTLED  
BY UNTI VINEYARDS HEALDSBURG CA

ALCOHOL 14.3% BY VOLUME