

# BROWN

ESTATE VINEYARDS

## BROWN ESTATE 2008 CHILES VALLEY ZINFANDEL

<b>Composition</b>	100% Estate Grown Zinfandel
<b>Vineyard Source</b>	Brown Estate Chiles Valley Vineyard Block
<b>Appellation</b>	Napa Valley
<b>Barrel Aging</b>	12 months 50/50 French/American Oak (33% new)
<b>Alcohol</b>	15.5% by vol.
<b>Production</b>	159 cases (12 x 750ml)

### Growing Season

The 2008 growing season began with a dry spring, followed by a long hard frost in late April. It ended with heat spikes shortly thereafter. The resulting roller coaster ride made for erratic bloom conditions with significant loss due to temperatures as low as 24 degrees. Lower yields, a less vigorous canopy, and smaller berry size made for less work and exceptional quality in the vineyard. At Brown Estate we saw up to forty percent loss of yield, with our chardonnay vineyard – the coldest spot on our property – yielding only 33 cases of wine.

### Vineyard Source

This is the seventh vintage bottling of our single vineyard zinfandel from the Chiles Valley Block at the center of our property. This rebel vineyard, with its zealous canopy and challenging location along our blue-line stream, thrives in the lush riparian zone. Wild grapes ramble up to the high branches of majestic oaks, where peregrine falcons and redheaded woodpeckers make their homes. Like its exotic surroundings, this tiny vineyard – a mere three acres – is aggressive and wild. Historically it has demanded intensive hands-on attention to keep it in check, and it has responded to years of care-filled nurturing and coaxing by producing the crown jewel in the Brown Estate zinfandel lineup.

### Tasting Notes

This lithe, ethereal gem will stimulate an evening's worth of conversation and contemplation if you have the restraint to savor it. Visually mesmerizing with deep magenta at the core and a subtle garnet rim. Nose reveals a bouquet of complexity, with freshly picked ripe black cherry, blackberry and succulent pomegranate along with rose petals and hibiscus interwoven with graphite and mineral and followed by layers of exotic spice. Juniper, nutmeg, cinnamon, coriander vanilla, subtle anise and spring flowers lead to cedar and forest floor. Superb, opulent mouth feel benefits from excellent acidity and exceptional architectural integrity. Intense, supple, and not a little mind-bending, this wine will transport you to the edges of your imagination. Drink now through 2017.

NAPA VALLEY

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