

BROWN

NAPA VALLEY

BROWN ESTATE 2009 MICKEY'S BLOCK ZINFANDEL

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Composition | 100% Estate Grown Zinfandel |
| Vineyard Source | Brown Estate – Mickey's Block |
| Appellation | Napa Valley |
| Barrel Aging | 12 months in 35% new oak, 50/50 French/American |
| Alcohol | 15.9% by vol. |
| Production | 330 cases in 12 x 750ml format |

Vineyard Source

Our Mickey's Block zinfandel vineyard is located on the far west side of our property beside a seasonal stream at an elevation of 1100 ft. The soils are volcanic, rocky, and mineral rich, with ideal quantities of sand and clay. This tiny six-acre vineyard has long been coveted for its unusually small clusters and berry size, which provide maximum intensity due to the high ratio of skins to volume. Mickey's Block is our only zinfandel vineyard with a north-south orientation. Shaded in the morning, it gets the afternoon and evening sun, and is subject to a diurnal shift in temperature during the ripening season that allows us to gain maximal extraction and intensity.

Growing Season

We are committed to the idea that every vintage is exceptional. Even if we get pummeled with frost (2008) or hailed on during bloom (1998), optimism always seems to get the best of us. When looking back, these challenges become triumphs and setbacks become milestones. In 2009 we experienced everything that makes our unique microclimate so special, without a single caveat! Cool foggy mornings, warm afternoons, and cold nights were persistent trends all season long. Our biggest challenge was harvest. Normally a thirty-day process, in 2009 it was compressed into ten days when a season-ending storm brought eight inches of precipitation during the third week of October. With only our 2009 cabernet sauvignon still in cask today, we can confidently say that Mother Nature got it right – across the board, the 2009 vintage brought us a fantastic array of wines.

Tasting Notes

Our 2009 Mickey's Block zinfandel reprises our beloved original 1996 and 1997 vintages, whose fruit came from this same vineyard. Intensely deep dark garnet core and translucent ruby rim show striking gemstone brilliance. Top notes of ultra fragrant rose narcissus, violets, and orange blossoms introduce a complex nose that unfolds to reveal sultry aromas of dark ripe black cherry, sweet raspberry/strawberry, cassis, and a hint of mulling spices over subtle worn leather and decadent black forest gâteau. Mouthfeel is fully loaded with a rich velvety glycerin-tinged plushness. Palate opens with raspberry hard candy followed by luscious black cherry compote over dark chocolate espresso and heavy cream with cinnamon, allspice, cloves, and lemon zest. Drink now through 2020.