

BROWN

NAPA VALLEY

BROWN ESTATE 2009 WESTSIDE ZINFANDEL

Composition	100% Estate Grown Zinfandel
Vineyard Source	Brown Estate – Westside Block
Appellation	Napa Valley
Barrel Aging	11 months in 30% new oak, 50/50 French American
Alcohol	15% by vol.
Production	250 cases in 12 x 750ml format

Vineyard Source

Our Westside zinfandel takes its name from the westerly location on our estate property where its namesake vineyard – a true outlier in every sense – grows. This far-flung corner of our land, home also to our small but heroic chardonnay vineyard, is our own wild, wild West. Volcanic and desert-like, the soil “out there” is rich with minerals. It also poses formidable challenges for flora that seek to thrive there. Concealed beneath the brushy floor of an adjacent chaparral forest are boulders the size of Volkswagen Bugs. In this roughneck wilderness, the vines themselves are subject in the morning to the coldest temperatures anywhere on our property, and in the afternoon, the hottest. These extreme conditions yield extraordinary zinfandel fruit that embodies a rarefied balance between ripeness and structure, a winning combination that produces one of the most stunning examples of the zinfandel varietal you’ll find anywhere.

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

This wine is visually enchanting, with a gorgeous ruby core and delicate translucent rose colored rim. But don’t be fooled by its demure appearance – it is a sultry powerhouse. The nose begins with a billowing perfume of rambling wild strawberries in the field, brandied Maraschino cherry, grenadine, and gamey black currant. Following closely is a glorious rush of double delight rose petals with morning dew, hibiscus, subtle lilac, and mandarin orange essence. Time in the glass reveals cascading exotic holiday spice, pound cake batter, and fresh heavy cream. Broad and expansive on the palate, this wine is smooth, silky, and succulently juicy with magnificent structure, purity, length, and balance. Drink now through 2020.