

# BROWN

NAPA VALLEY

## BROWN ESTATE 2010 MICKEY'S BLOCK ZINFANDEL

<b>Composition</b>	100% Estate Grown Zinfandel
<b>Vineyard Source</b>	Mickey's Block, Brown Estate
<b>Appellation</b>	Chiles Valley District, Napa Valley
<b>Barrel Aging</b>	12 months in 30% new oak 50/50 French/American
<b>Alcohol</b>	15.2% by vol.
<b>Production</b>	350 cases in 12 x 750ml format

### Growing Season

The 2010 growing season was marked by dramatically cool weather from budbreak through bloom, and veraison was delayed until mid-August. The early cool weather resulted in a reduced fruit set, and in turn the crop itself was reduced to nearly half the size of the previous vintage. This cool weather and small crop made for a dramatic winemaking season. Heat spikes in late August and early September intensified the already astonishing level of flavor development, and a return to mild temperatures in October gave us the option of extended hangtime. The resulting wines show unprecedented levels of color, extraction, and flavor development, making the 2010 vintage one for the record book!

### Vineyard Notes

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.

### Tasting Notes

Brilliant garnet core and translucent ruby rim. Bouquet is an intricately woven tapestry that reveals only some of the mysteries of how the growing season influenced this vintage of Mickey's Block. This wine is a study in contradictions, differing immensely from the previous vintage in that it is bone dry and far more complex in character. It is by turns dark and brooding with savory aromas of pimento smoked roasted animal, grilled herbs, and subtle embers, and ethereal with delicate floral notes of lilac and lavender mixed with citrus blossom and subtle anise. Further engagement reveals rich and decadent notes of milk chocolate, espresso, English toffee, brandied currants, cake batter, heavy cream, and winter spice, with a final layer of blackberries, boysenberries, orange peel, a hint of dried apricot, graphite, and peat. Mouth feel is luxurious and silky with firm tannins, broad and expansive with a medium body and a seamless long and lingering finish. Drink now through 2019.