

BROWN

NAPA VALLEY

BROWN ESTATE 2011 CHAOS THEORY

Composition	60% zinfandel 35% cabernet sauvignon 5% petite sirah
Appellation	Chiles Valley District, Napa Valley
Barrel Aging	12 months in 33% new oak 50% French / 50% American
Alcohol	14.5% by vol.
Production	1100 cases in 12 x 750ml format 225 cases in 6 x 1.5L format

Growing Season

The 2011 growing season was plagued by an unusually long stretch of spring rains, resulting in more shatter than normal which in turn required extended time and care – literally known as triage – at the sorting table during crush, to remove the “shot” berries. But even as we bemoaned 2011’s diminished yield, it was precisely that extra shatter brought on by the heavy spring rains that saved us during the unrelenting rains that hit at harvest. Periodic breaks in the fall rainy season allowed the loose clusters to dry out and continue ripening. It was a rollercoaster ride – as growing zinfandel tends to be – watching the fruit and hoping the brix would get to the right levels. Knowing just when to bring the fruit in was a guessing game because even with the best technology on hand we can only predict the weather to a limited degree. We usually take 30 days to harvest all of our fruit, but in 2011 we were done in less than two weeks. The history of this wild growing season is now bottled in our 2011 wines, and it is truly a thriller. Like a sailor who’s been out at sea battling stormy weather to make it home, the 2011 vintage has a spectacular story to tell.

Tasting Notes

Our 2011 Chaos Theory is an epic tale of the blending of three magnificent varietals, and their willingness to sublimate their individual genius in service to the greater good, thus creating a masterpiece that embodies the best of each. Intense magenta core, punctuated with onyx and dazzling garnet rim, invites the eye to delve into seemingly endless visual depth. Bouquet is rich and plush with ripe sun-drenched blackberries, black cherries, and fresh cream with sugar frosted meringue-topped citrus tart, sprinkled with candied lilac petals. Venture deeper and discover earthy notes of sweet soil and dark Venezuelan chocolate with cedar, bay laurel, and residual pipe tobacco. Irresistible lush, layered mouthfeel unfurls stunning expression on the palate. Drink now through 2025.