

BROWN

NAPA VALLEY

BROWN ESTATE 2011 CHILES VALLEY ZINFANDEL

Composition	100% Estate Grown Zinfandel
Vineyard Source	Brown Estate Chiles Valley Vineyard Block
Appellation	Napa Valley
Barrel Aging	12 months 50/50 French/American Oak (25% new)
Alcohol	15.2% by vol.
Production	700 cases (12 x 750ml)

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

Crystalline clarity with deep garnet core and delicate scarlet rim – this wine is eye candy in a glass! The subtly nuanced 2011 vintage possesses all of the hallmark characteristics we've learned to expect of this “wild child” vineyard. Extroverted notes of hibiscus tea, exotic Asian apple, rose petals, and ruby red grapefruit billow forth, juxtaposed with an evocative tangle of bramble, briar, and morning garden. Buoyant top notes of allspice, cinnamon, cardamom, and cloves virtually dance in the glass. Medium-bodied with magnificent depth and length and a vibrant acidity that provides seamless integration of structure and spice with lush, juicy, decadent fruit. Drink now thru 2020.