

BROWN

NAPA VALLEY

BROWN ESTATE 2011 ROSEMARY'S BLOCK ZINFANDEL

Composition	100% Estate Grown Zinfandel
Vineyard Source	Rosemary's Block, Brown Estate
Appellation	Chiles Valley District, Napa Valley
Barrel Aging	12 months in 30% new oak, 50/50 French/American
Alcohol	14.9% by vol.
Production	700 cases in 12 x 750ml format

Vineyard Source

Our five-acre Rosemary's Block vineyard is the yin to Mickey's yang. Just a stone's throw from Mickey's, Rosemary's rows enjoy east-west orientation, thus benefiting from full sun throughout the day, with evening shade provided by a nearby stand of oak trees. This distinct exposure produces markedly different grapes that feature red fruit characteristics and effervescent citrus. Our Rosemary's Block vineyard is well known for producing high-definition, high-intensity fruit with magnificent focus and delicate extraction.

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

Gemstone clarity with translucent ruby core and delicate rose-colored rim – this wine invites the nose to come hither! The 2011 vintage departs from the new world wow factor of 2010 by evoking a Côte de Nuits with a gorgeous under layer of red fruit. Classic elegant floral notes billow from the glass, beginning with exotic hibiscus blossom, sweet gardenia, blooming freesia, and black tea, and leading to spicy notes of freshly grated ginger, cloves, and subtle eucalyptus, then a whisper of savory thyme. Time in the glass brings hints of creamy/tart lemon meringue and cherries jubilee. Ethereal with an air of mystery, this new vintage of Rosemary's slowly reveals its majesty before unleashing its power in stages like an impassioned, controlling narrator of its own story. This highly nuanced wine is rife with intrigue. Drink now through 2022.