

# BROWN

NAPA VALLEY

## BROWN ESTATE 2012 CHILES VALLEY ZINFANDEL

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

### Growing Season

The 2012 growing season was exceptional. Fruit set was even, clusters remained loose, and minimal thinning was required to achieve balance. Sugar accumulation was slow and steady, coinciding with well-paced flavor development and allowing for extended hangtime – a winegrower’s dream. In a sense, Mother Nature, who owed us one following the challenging 2011 vintage, gave us a pass in 2012 in the form of a spectacular season that practically tended itself. Our 2012 wines came together with corresponding aplomb, and collectively they represent one of the finest and most persuasive expressions of our terroir ever to be bottled under the Brown Estate label.

### Vineyard Source

This wine hails from a vineyard singular on our property because of its location in a riparian zone. A blue-line streambed runs along one side, wedging between two steep hillsides to mimic a pass or gorge and creating a wind tunnel effect. Thanks to this waterway and an old chicken coop that predated our purchase of the property, the soils here are especially fertile. At only 2.5 acres, this vineyard is the most vigorous one we farm, demanding special care and faithful thinning. After the sun comes up, it beams down – almost in a magnified fashion – into the pass where this vineyard sits, giving it intense early morning exposure. Because it enjoys that first light, it is the first of our mature zinfandel vines to bud break, and thus has the longest growing season among our zinfandel blocks. That extra week or two of ripening helps to intensify the very distinct peppery/spicy flavor profile that is this wine’s hallmark.

### Tasting Notes

Translucent magenta core with scarlet rim and signature Brown Estate bouquet of Asian apple, hibiscus, rose petals, and cascading spice. Secondary notes of bay laurel, blackberry, cigar, and a touch of black pepper inspire thoughtful, lingering engagement. Layers of complexity make this wine an excellent accompaniment to the unique blend of savory, sweet, and tart flavors that comprise a classic all-American Thanksgiving dinner. Drink now through 2022.