

BROWN

NAPA VALLEY

BROWN ESTATE 2012 MICKEY'S BLOCK ZINFANDEL

Composition	100% Estate Grown Zinfandel
Vineyard Source	Mickey's Block, Brown Estate
Appellation	Chiles Valley District, Napa Valley
Barrel Aging	12 months in 30% new oak, 50/50 French/American
Alcohol	15.2% by vol.
Production	700 cases in 12 x 750ml format

Vineyard Source

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.

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.

Tasting Notes

Our 2012 Mickey's Block Zinfandel harkens back to the original 2009 vintage where it consistently stole the show with stop-you-in-your-tracks vibrant, ultra-ripe jammy fruit. It is charismatic and enchanting, displaying smoldering black fruit and rich cream. Deep, dark, and dense with a garnet core and ruby/rose-colored rim. Nose bursts forth with ultra-ripe blackberries and black cherries with hints of pot de crème and fresh baked pie crust. Smokey herb and wild game notes banter with sweet star jasmine and effervescent citrus. Heavy-bodied, dense, and loaded with glycerine. Mouthfeel is deep, rich, and succulent with a luxurious silky texture and long, sublime finish. Drink now through 2022.