

BROWN

NAPA VALLEY

BROWN ESTATE 2012 WESTSIDE ZINFANDEL

Composition	100% Estate Grown Zinfandel
Vineyard Source	Westside Vineyard, Brown Estate
Appellation	Chiles Valley District, Napa Valley
Barrel Aging	12 months in 30% new oak 50/50 French American
Alcohol	15.5% by vol.
Production	700 cases in 12 x 750ml format

Vineyard Source

Our Westside zinfandel takes its name from the westerly location on our estate property where its namesake vineyard – a true outlier in every sense – grows. This far-flung corner of our land, home also to our small but heroic chardonnay vineyard, is our own wild, wild West. Volcanic and desert-like, the soil “out there” is rich with minerals. It also poses formidable challenges for flora that seek to thrive there. Concealed beneath the brushy floor of an adjacent chaparral forest are boulders the size of Volkswagen Bugs. In this roughneck wilderness, the vines themselves are subject in the morning to the coldest temperatures anywhere on our property, and in the afternoon, the hottest. These extreme conditions yield extraordinary zinfandel fruit that embodies a rarefied balance between ripeness and structure, a winning combination that produces one of the most stunning examples of the zinfandel varietal you’ll find anywhere.

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

This newest bottling of our Westside Zinfandel is rife with elegant, gentle, jammy qualities. Between its deep garnet core and magenta rim lies an aura of sultry depth. Billowing perfumes of cinnamon, allspice, and clove intertwine with cola, ripe black cherries, wild strawberries in the field, and heavy cream. Delve deeper and you will encounter subtle yarrow, roasted sweet herbs, bay laurel, and a hint of eucalyptus. Mouthfeel is silky, rich, and deep with a touch of glycerin that delivers a smooth, supple, enveloping sensation. Medium to heavy body is dense yet nuanced, filled with ripe red fruits that echo the nose plus a bonus of juicy clementine mid-palate followed by delicate dusty cocoa that leads to a sublime finish. Drink now through 2022.