

BROWN

NAPA VALLEY

BROWN ESTATE 2013 CHILES VALLEY ZINFANDEL

Composition	100% Estate Grown Zinfandel
Vineyard Source	Brown Estate Chiles Valley Vineyard Block
Appellation	Napa Valley
Barrel Aging	12 months in 25% new oak, 50/50 French/American
Alcohol	15.4% by vol.
Production	700 cases (12 x 750ml)

Vineyard Source

This wine hails from a vineyard that is 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.

Growing Season

The 2013 growing season was marked by steady, even, constant conditions. A mild and dry spring led to early budbreak with vigorous canopy growth and picture perfect fruit set and development. September surprised us with sudden slight showers that thankfully had virtually no impact on a flawless growing season. Following the dreamlike conditions of 2012, winegrowers once again thanked our lucky stars for another superb year where harvest commenced at our discretion rather than in response to season-ending storms.

Tasting Notes

As is true of each vintage, our characteristically complex, nuanced, spicy 2013 Chiles Valley zin is an ideal companion to your Thanksgiving feast. Buoyant notes of blue rose, kumquat, mandarin, and hibiscus give way to tea blossom, Asian apple, and a rushing cascade of coriander, cinnamon, subtle anise, and cloves. Brooding secondary notes of fir balsam and mild juniper intertwine with blooming violets. This succulent wine is juicy and rich with traces of black cherry, blackberry, lichee, and star apple rounding out a palate of ripe, jammy, chewy fruit. Full-bodied and voluptuous yet structured with excellent acidity and superb balance. Drink now through 2025.