

Davis Family Vineyards

2002 Zinfandel, Russian River Valley. Old Vine

Many of you know the story of this vineyard, but for those who don't, I will give you a quick history...These vines are not just old they are *ancient!*

The vineyard was planted in 1896 by the Vanucci family; some of the original settlers in this area of California. The vineyard survived Prohibition by being passed off as producing wine for sacrament – Praise the Lord!

We purchased the vineyard in 1996, at its 100th birthday. The old Zinfandel vines that once flourished had been abandoned and neglected for over 10 years and given up for dead, completely overgrown with wild blackberry vines, oak saplings and scrub brush. My sole intent was to use this amazing site, which consists of beautiful fertile hillsides with southeastern exposures, as a home for Pinot Noir and Syrah. As I began to clear the brush by hand while preparing the land for planting, I found a vine here and there that had managed to send one long straggly arm through the tangled mess, to the top of the canopy with just enough leaves to make just enough energy to stay alive!

To give you the condensed version, we saved just under 3 acres of the original 10 and began nursing it back to health. 3 years later we made our first 2 barrels from these reincarnated old gentlemen! The rest of the vineyard is now producing great Pinot Noir and Syrah, and this Zinfandel block is up to a whopping 6 barrels a year (about 150 cases!)

The vines are dry-farmed which means no water except for the winter rains, which creates concentrated, extracted flavors of brambly raspberry and boysenberry and those deep old roots add an amazing brown spice complexity.

Besides the blockbuster flavors of this classic Zinfandel ,do you know what makes it *really cool?* **With only 150 cases being produced from this old organic vineyard you have to be a "Friends of the Family Wine Club" member to get any!!** We spread 20 cases around to our favorite restaurants that have supported us since the beginning, and saved the rest for the best...**you!**

The fact that these vines are 108-years-old makes very intense flavors, but not many clusters, only 1 or 2 per vine so I can't make much, but what I can make seems special each and every year. The flavors are big and bold...you may need seat belts at the Holiday table if you pull the cork on this one! The rich full body goes with lots of hearty dishes from Prime Rib to Pizza.

Try this out...open this bottle of Zinfandel with dinner but save 1/3 of the bottle for dessert – bring on the chocolate and it turns into love potion...really, its *Zinfully* delicious! Try it!

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