

92

Wine & Spirits Magazine

TOP 10 ZINFANDELS OF 2001

It's California juice, whether you taste it as zin or smell it as sensemilla. The black herb scent yields to a lovely textured mouthfeel of red and black raspberry fruit. It's dense, weighty and full; if you drink it with lamb chops you won't need the mint jelly. 2000 DRY CREEK ZINFANDEL

90

California Grapevine

SECOND PLACE

VERY HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

Medium-dark ruby; attractive, intense, jammy, plummy, black raspberry and cherry fruit aroma; full body; concentrated, spicy, briary, ripe black raspberry fruit flavors with notes of green olive, black pepper, and chocolate; medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. 2000 DRY CREEK ZINFANDEL

94

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TOP 10 ZINFANDELS OF 2000

An explosion of fruit, this touches all the senses on the tongue, a huge berry flavor ripening from cranberry to blackberry and currants. Freshness runs through it from the beautiful color to the brilliant focus on fruit-not at all Port-like, just fully ripe. Sleeping underneath it all are scents of smoke, tobacco, Earl Grey tea, all giving a sense of the complexity to come with further age. For now, the wine is seamless, focused, impossible to pull apart. And while the rating has nothing to do with the price, at \$20, it's a steal.

1999 DRY CREEK ZINFANDEL

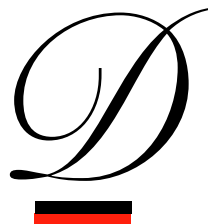
90

Underground Wine Journal

Comes through loud and clear with a cherry-and berry-kissed nose. The wine delivers a well-balanced palate of full fruit and the support of adequate tannins trailing off in a long berry finish.

1998 DRY CREEK ZINFANDEL

DASHE CELLARS

*Zinfandel*

DRY CREEK VALLEY

Michael & Anne Dashe
Proprietors/Winemakers

ZINFANDEL
DRY CREEK VALLEY
HOTSHEET

"Mike Dashe has parlayed his experience as Assistant Winemaker at Ridge Vineyards into the launch of Dashe Cellars. Zinfandel was the logical focus, given his background with the variety at Ridge, and with his wife and co-winemaker, Anne, he tracked down grape sources in Sonoma County. Their efforts are impressive, showing juicy raspberry, black cherry and spice flavors." (6/99)

The Wine Spectator

"This is classic Dry Creek fruit, fragrant and spicy, redolent of fresh, ripe berries. Lots of vivid acidity keep it fresh and polished." (3/02)

Wine Enthusiast Magazine

"Ripe, teetering on jammy, with wild berry, raspberry, blackberry and spice, adding a complex, fruity finish." (6/99)

The Wine Spectator

89

Robert Parker's Wine Advocate

An impressive newcomer to the Zinfandel sweepstakes, this old vine offering, with small quantities of Carignan and Alicante, added to the blend, is a dark ruby/purple-colored wine with a classy nose of underbrush, cherry liqueur, and high quality, spicy wood. In the mouth, it is reminiscent of a fine premier cru Beaune or Volnay. Medium to full-bodied, elegant, layered, rich, and pure, this is an impressive, restrained yet flavorful and persistent wine that should age nicely for 5-6 years.

1996 DRY CREEK ZINFANDEL

91+

Connoisseur's Guide to California Wine
2 PUFFS

Well-ripened and loaded with both fruit and briary spice, this well-stuffed bottling carries an extra bit of chocolatey richness from the very start. Deep and rather muscular stuff on the palate, its rugged nature always underpinned by ample fruit, this wine has the kind of strength and structure to grow on.

1996 DRY CREEK ZINFANDEL