

# FOOD&WINE

May 2006, **Ray Isle**

## **2003 Dry Creek Valley Zinfandel**

“Michael Dashe, who honed his zinfandel-making skills at California’s famed Ridge Vineyards in the ‘90s, produces one of the most impressive Dry Creek Valley Zinfandels around. The ‘03 tastes like ripe blackberries, laced with black pepper and clove.”

## **St. Louis Eats and Drinks With Joe and Ann Pollack**

May 2006

“Four Zinfandels were opened to accompany some spicy home-made meatloaf, and while all four were acceptable, two stood out. The favored two were both of the 2002 vintage...and a Dashe zin from the Louvau vineyard also in Dry Creek Valley. Both wines are dark and rich and full-bodied, with the aroma of brambly brush behind the grapes. Dashe is 100% Zinfandel.”

## **The San Francisco Examiner, Pamela S. Busch**

May 2006

“Making a Dash for Dashe”

“Dashe focuses on Zinfandel, though they also make cabernet sauvignon and merlot. While the latter are well-made, enjoyable wines, Michael has a knack for making expressive zinfandel without overreaching what has made Dashe Cellars reputation. Although their zinfandels cannot be mistaken for anything else, Michael and Anne’s experience in Bordeaux is evident in the wines with their restraint, emphasis on terroir and breed. The 2003 vintage was a bit warmer than usual, not a bad thing for zinfandel, and Dashe’s wines soared.”

## **2003 Dry Creek Valley Zinfandel**

“Lush and jammy, with strawberry, raspberry fruit, baking spices and vanilla, this is a classic Dry Creek Valley Zinfandel, as well as one of the first wines Michael and Anne made.

## **2003 Todd Brothers Ranch Zinfandel**

Todd Brothers Ranch is a 67-year-old vineyard in the Geyserville section of the Alexander Valley. While it may improve further in a year or two, this ‘03 is pretty friendly now. With a darker fruit character, and more tannin there is intensity but it’s not over the top.”

## **2003 Louvau Vineyards Old Vines Zinfandel**

“If the Todd Brothers Ranch is the St. Julien of Dashe’s wines, Louvau is the Margaux. Also from a vineyard that is almost 70 years old, it has a conglomerate of black cherry, raspberry, chocolate and spice with hints of truffles and earth.”



April/May 2006

**2002 Cabernet Sauvignon, Alexander Valley**

“Mint, black earth and glove leather aromas. Youthful, tooth-sticking tannins; however, loaded with plum, black cherry and licorice flavors. A peppery nuance spikes the finish”

**FOOD&WINE**

April 2006

**2002 Dry Creek Valley Zinfandel**

“Recommended!”

***Atlanta Style & Design, Robert Calvert***

Spring 2006

“Yes! There are thousands of boutique wineries all around the world, relatively small establishments that release only a few hundred or thousand cases each year, places where winemakers can lavish personal attention on every blessed bottle. Some of these wineries have become quite well known, achieving cult status and pricing themselves out of our cellars. Others remain to be discovered. Recently we tried wines from three wineries that, although not exactly small, qualify as “boutiques” because they are relatively unknown in the United States...

The Dashes make a wonderful Alexander Valley Cabernet Sauvignon and a remarkable Merlot, but mostly they make great single-vineyard Zins from small vineyards in Sonoma and Mendocino counties. Regrettably, they can produce only a few hundred cases of these wines each year. We have had the good fortune to taste all the Dashes’ wines, and we loved them all, but they are in short supply. In addition to their single-vineyard wines, the Dashes make one multi-vineyard wine that you are likely to find -- their Dry Creek Valley Zin.

We were stunned when we tasted the **Dashe Cellars 2003 Dry Creek Valley Zinfandel**. It was a beautiful dark color that sparkled as though the wine were winking at us -- “purple and beautiful,” as one taster observed. Sniffing intently, we filled our eager noses with the wine’s dark fruit and pepper fragrances before taking a first daring sip. The glorious taste was full of blackberries and blueberries, dark cherries, caramel, vanilla, a hint of licorice, bay leaves and an echo of pepper. In fact, it tasted rather like a really rich minced-meat pie. In a strange way, there was something French about this deeply tasty wine. Subtle but bold, its flavors were so beautifully blended and balanced that we began imagining enjoying it with French food -- perhaps a *daube* of lamb shoulder. This is not our typical reaction when drinking Zins.



**Paul Lukacs**

March 2006

**2002 Dashe Cellars Todd Brothers Ranch Zinfandel, Alexander Valley**

“Dashe Cellars specializes in small-volume, limited edition Zinfandels... This particular bottling, made from grapes grown north of the town Geyserville in the Alexander Valley, shows plenty of muscle. Coming in at 14.8% alcohol, it offers intense black fruit flavors, enhanced by notes of cocoa and coffee. At the same time, it seems almost gentile on the palate, with no trace of heat and nary a rough edge. This old-vine Zinfandel at its best, a wine that impresses because of balance more than power.”

90 POINTS!

**South Florida Sun Sentinel, Bob Hosmon**

March 30, 2006

“Wine of the Week”

**2003 Louvau Vineyard Old Vines Zinfandel**

“The 2003 Dashe Cellars Louvau Vineyard Old Vines Zinfandel is one of the richest, most complex, yet velvety smooth reds I’ve tasted. It’s those old (50-years-plus) vines and their location in Sonoma’s Dry Creek Valley that create such a rare treat.”



April-June 2006

**2002 Petite Syrah, Ripken Vineyard**

”A very ripe bouquet of anise, black cherry, blackberry, and Chocolate. All except the anise repeat as flavors but with the cherry last plus a significant amount of firm tannin and carry through the medium-broad, medium-long finish”



**Steve Pitcher**

January 2006

**2002 Old Vines Louvau Vineyard, Dry Creek Valley**

“Outstanding Zinfandel!”

## **The Pittsburgh Tribune Review, Dave DeSimone**

January, 2006

“Dashe Cellars Produces Wines That Stand Out”

“With scores of California wineries constantly emerging, it is rare, indeed, to taste new wines that truly stand above the pack. But such is the case with the wines of Dashe Cellars, a winery with a steadily growing national reputation.”

### **2002 Dashe Cellars Louvau Vineyards “Old Vines” Zinfandel, Dry Creek Valley, California**

“Made primarily from reclaimed 67-year-old vines now yielding incredibly low production levels, this wine’s beautiful dark purple color offers wonderful, complex aromas of blackberries, raspberries and plums with just a hint of black pepper and chocolate. The lush, juicy flavors and blackberries and chocolate are balanced by ultra-skinny and outstanding layers of fruit and acidity through a very refined finish.” Highly recommended.

### **2002 Dashe Cellars Dry Creek Valley Zinfandel**

Highly Recommended!

## **StateWays, John Breitlow**

December 2005

### **2002 Dry Creek Valley Zinfandel**

“The years top wines”

“Features ripe raspberries and baking spice flavors tailored for finger-licking good barbeque.”



### **Rich Mauro**

October-December 2005

### **2002 Cabernet Sauvignon, Alexander Valley**

“It spent 15 months in French oak, 30% new, and has a light nose of smoke herb, blackberry, and currant which repeat as flavors plus a significant amount of smooth tannin and finishes long and medium-broad with some alcohol.”

## **San Francisco Chronicle**

November 2005

### **2003 Dashe Dry Creek Zinfandel**

“A heady Zin with bright juicy cherry, boysenberry, cranberry and spice aromas; jammy blackberry, vanilla, black licorice and black tea flavors...”

**Florida Keys Keynoter – Bill Citara**

November 2005

**2002 Dashe Alexander Valley Cabernet**

“Like a high-performance sports car, it’s got plenty of power but is always under control. It’s a lovely royal purple color and gives off intoxicating aromas of ripe blueberries and blackberries.”



**Steve Heimoff**

November, 2005

**2002 Dashe Cellars Dry Creek Zinfandel**

“A blend of several vineyards, this is a generous Zin, and very ripe, to judge from the blast of sun-warmed wild berry and cocoa flavors that spread over the palate. It’s quite soft in the mouth, and finishes a bit sweet.”



October/November 2005

**2002 Dashe Cabernet Sauvignon**

“Blended with a little merlot and petite verdot, this classic Alexander Valley Cab is quite intense and complex and possesses a mouth-coating, velvety texture framed with ripe, supple tannins. Attractive aromas of cassis, red cherry, plum, chocolate and a hint of black pepper, with muted tar emerging with airing. Silky smooth with medium tannins, offering deep flavors that replicate the nose with notes of blackberry and minerals.”

90 Points!

**Winona Daily News, John Breitlow**

October 2005

**2002 Dry Creek Valley Zinfandel**

“Deep color, lively berry fruit, good balance and varietal character, standard premium Zin with long lively finish...”

89 Points!

**The San Francisco Examiner**

October 2005

**2003 Dry Creek Valley Zinfandel**

“Michael and Anne Dashe left Ridge, where Michael was the assistant winemaker, to start their own venture. Their winery is in Alameda, but they have fantastic fruit sources throughout Northern California...Dry Creek Valley Zinfandel-raspberry, strawberry jam and all with sweet spicy oak nuances of vanilla, nutmeg and cinnamon.”



October 2005

**2003 Dry Creek Valley Zinfandel**

“This dark, sleek, rich, garnet-purple beauty unleashed succulent scents of herbaceous pepper and polished, tight, concentrated flavors of black cherry, blackberry and raspberry. Tasters praised its flavors of fruit and coca that persisted on the satisfying cherry finish.”



**Anthony Dias Blue**

August 2005

Anthony's favorites from the 500 wines he tastes each month:

**Dashe Cellars 2002 Zinfandel, Todd Brothers Vineyard, Alexander Valley**

“Former Ridge winemaker Michael Dashe knows Zinfandel; lovely plum and black raspberry fruit, packed with spice and finesse.”

**Fort Worth Business Press**

August 2005

**Dashe Cellars Zinfandel Dry Creek Valley**

Renie and Sterling Steves' Favorite Zinfandels to Complement Your Backyard Cooking

**KOEPEL ON WINE**

July 2005

**2002 Dashe Cellars Zinfandel**

“This is a remarkable dark and fragrant zinfandel, deep and straight rather than broad; it invites but you have to earn your keep. The fruit is black currants and black cherries solidly rooted and bittersweet chocolate with a touch of wild berry. The texture is dense and chewy, and come up on a tide of briars and bramble...possesses real presence and personality.”

## **Minneapolis StarTribune, Tim Teichgraeber**

July 2005

“Taster’s Choice: Cellar’s reds have a Dashe of Style ”

“Husband and wife winemaking team Mike and Anne Dashe made a big splash with their first Zinfandel from the 1996 vintage, and over the past decade their quirky monkey-riding-a-fish label has developed a loyal following.

**2002 Dashe Cellars Zinfandel Dry Creek Valley.** The least expensive, but arguable the prettiest wine Dashe makes- it’s just so seamless, elegant and balanced. Truly a winemaker’s wine with pretty dried herbs and pepper notes over juicy blackberry, blueberry and black raspberry flavors. Four stars.

**2002 Dashe Cellars Louvau Vineyard Old Vines Zinfandel Dry Creek Valley.** Made from formerly overgrown vines nursed back to health, the Louvau is a bit more concentrated with deep, youthful cassis, blueberry, candied cherry, mint and pepper aromas and flavors. Spicy, rich and ripe to the brink, with nice earthy notes, and exceptionally balanced. Four stars.

**2002 Dashe Cellars Todd Brothers Vineyard Zinfandel Alexander Valley.** Intense zin from a red volcanic soil hillside vineyard in Alexander Valley with concentrated blackberry, black raspberry, sweet crushed dried flower, and spicy black pepper aromas and flavors. Three-and-a-half stars.

**2002 Dashe Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon Alexander Valley.** Firm-textured and ripe cabernet from iron-rich volcanic hillside soil with concentrated cassis, cherry, mint, dried herb, smoke and mineral flavors that finish long, taut and even. Three-and-a-half stars.



July 2004

“Moody’s Hot Ten”

### **Dashe Cellars Zinfandel, Louvau Vineyard Old Vines**

“Dashe Cellars Zinfandel Louvau Vineyard Old Vines Dry Creek Valley 2002— 65-year-old vines barely produce commercially viable, yet richly rewarding wines. Stressful growing conditions, small lot fermentation, use of indigenous yeasts and little or no fining help capture the terroir of the vineyard. Choc late/cherry/ clove/ spice bouquet with intriguing, rich texture, middle taste and lingering finish. It’s just mind-boggling how many wonderful wineries are popping up all over the place. I believe that the two primary reasons are site specific vines and winemakers with credentials and experience. For Dashe, it’s wine professionals Anne and Michael Dashe!”