



TORONTO VINTNERS CLUB Inc.

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2001 CALIFORNIA ZINFANDEL

Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 13, 2005 6:15 P.M.
The Ontario Club, 5th Floor, Commerce Court South
(Northeast Corner of Bay & Wellington Streets)
Toronto, Ontario Tel: (416) 862-1270

2001 is widely considered one of the best vintages in California ranked in the past decade. Robert Parker gives California Zinfandel a 90, indicating they are ready to drink. We chose to maintain a horizontal of the 2001 vintage, to ensure fair comparison of the wine but couldn't resist the offer of the excellent 2002 Geyserville. So you get a horizontal and mini-vertical in one tasting!

Jancis Robinson's Vines, Grapes & Wines refers to Zinfandel as "California's very own "European" varietal as "thrilling, not just because of the exciting air of mystery surrounding its origins, but because of the potential quality of the wine made from it." According to wine writer Natalie Maclean, "With tooth-stripping alcohol levels of 17%, many zins embody Ravenswood's motto: Nullum vinum flaccidum (No wimpy wines). The wines' dense fruit and opulent texture make syrup seem runny by comparison. . . . Depending on its style, zinfandel can pair well with a range of dishes. Although the big, inky wines enjoy muscling in beside rustic food with strong flavors, they also seem like food themselves."

Low-yield zinfandel gives one of the purest expressions of terroir — the reason fine wine producers designate the vineyard on the label. Zinfandel is a great wine tasting experience because of its diversity of styles. Rosenblum, for example, produces seventeen different zinfandels, some in batches of as few as 75 cases. The single-vineyard system resembles Burgundy's small lots rather than Bordeaux's larger blends.

The most usually cited characteristics of red zinfandel are aromas and flavours of raspberry, blackberry, boysenberry and cherry sometimes laced with black pepper, cloves, anise and herbs. We have eight different wines, including two Rosenblums and two Ridge wines. Ridge winery has earned the title of post-Prohibition patron saint of Zinfandel, seeking out plots of ancient, low-yielding vines all over the state and fashioning them into the most stylish, concentrated essences by treating them to prolonged fermentation and painstaking *elevage* in small oak barrels. The separate Ridge and Rosenblum bottlings will demonstrate what different and exciting wines can be produced by this grape in different vineyards. Ridge's website has an interesting note on aging wines. "The best zins are so inviting in their first five or six years that laying them down seems almost silly. Should Ridge zinfandel be aged? In some cases, yes....Properly stored Geyserville zinfandels from 1970, 1973, and 1977 are lovely- incredibly complex-even now....Most zinfandels today are at their best over the first five years and most Ridge zins can develop for eight or ten."

For more information about Zinfandel, download **A Resource Guide to Zinfandel II** produced by Zinfandel Advocates and Producers at www.zinfandel.org/.

NOTE: Only paid-up members in good standing can attend at members' rates. First come basis; no telephone or e-mail reservations. Deadline for reservations/cancellations without penalty is Sept 8. To cancel, call 416-209-1442 or email events@torontovintners.org. If you wish confirmation your cheque has been rec'd, please send an email; otherwise you will be contacted only if we're sold out. Cheques payable to Toronto Vintners Club. (Tip: cut out the address box below & paste it onto your envelope.)

Names:		
Address (only for unaccompanied guests or for membership info change).		
Bus Tel:	Home Tel:	
Email:		
_____ Member's assessment -	\$44.00 pp	\$
_____ Guest / non-member assessment -	\$51.00 pp	\$
	TOTAL	\$
____ I would like to sit at the Newcomers' table with an experienced taster or to meet other members.		

**2001 Zinfandel
Sept. 13/05**

Mail to:
Toronto Vintners Club
c/o S. Dorosh
PO Box 1023
TDC Postal Station
77 King St. West,
Toronto, ON
M5K 1P2

I understand and accept my personal safety responsibilities when attending a Toronto Vintners Club event.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

THE BACK PAGE

2001 - ZINFANDEL- CALIFORNIA

1. **Ridge, Geyserville, Sonoma, Alexander Valley, 2001** \$50
"The 2001 Geyserville Proprietary Red, a blend of 74% Zinfandel, 18% Carignan, and 8% Petite Syrah, is a beautiful effort. Its deep ruby/purple color is followed by a tight but promising nose of raspberry and briery fruit intermingled with notions of oak, pepper, and resin. This dense, full-bodied, textured, voluptuous offering is both exuberant and dramatic on the palate. Although the aromatics have not caught up with the flavors, this appears to be an exceptional example of the renowned cuvee. Its 14.4% alcohol is well-disguised beneath some serious concentration. It will drink well for 5-6 years. Score 91, Robert Parker, 10/2003"
2. **Ridge, Geyserville, Sonoma, Alexander Valley, 2002** \$45
"Another reference point effort from Ridge, the 2002 Geyserville Proprietary Red (84% Zinfandel, 12% Carignan, and 4% Petite Sirah) boasts a rich, sumptuous bouquet of blackberries, kirsch liqueur, damp earth, and licorice. Full-bodied and powerful, with good acidity as well as surprising elegance, this ruby/purple-colored, heady 2002 can be drunk over the next 7-8 years. Score 92, Robert Parker."
3. **Robert Mondavi, Zinfandel, Napa Valley, 2001** \$34
Winemaker notes - This is 100% Zinfandel. The wine unfolds in deep, lush layers of blackberry character with accents of black pepper and aromatic spices.
"Manages to balance its ripe core of intense cherry, cranberry, and wild berry fruit with a measure of restraint, though it's a trick act given the firmness of the tannins. Drink now through 2007. (James Laube, www.winespectator.com, May 31, 2003)
4. **Rosenblum, RustRidge Vineyard, Napa Valley, 2001** \$37
Winemaker notes - This 100% Zinfandel is aged in oak, 30% French, remainder American. This beautiful vineyard sits at a 1000-foot elevation in...a small sub-appellation of Napa known as Lower Chiles Valley. The soil is gravelly volcanic loam. Vines were planted in the 1970's, with four different Zinfandel clones making up the vineyard mix. It is a lush and structured wine exhibiting a bouquet of ripe currants, dark cherries and spicy boysenberries with elements of smoked game and black pepper. Flavours of ripe black cherry and blackberry with clean smoky elements and hints of chocolate.
5. **Seghesio, Old Vines, Sonoma, 2001** \$28
One of the last remaining Italian families specializing in Zin, with over 250 acres in Alexander Valley and Dry Creek valleys dating back to 1895, concentrating on superb, age worthy Zin. 75% Amer. oak, 25% French oak. "Scents of wild berry, flowers and dark fruits lead to rich, enticing flavors of blackberry jam, anise, cedar and pencil lead. Shortens a bit on the finish, where it shows its tannic backbone, but this wine has a lot going for it. At this price, buy a case or two. Drink now to
6. **Ravenswood, Old Vines, Sonoma, 2001** \$29
2008. Score - 88. (James Laube, www.winespectator.com, May 31, 2003)
Winemaker notes - From 70 to 80 year old vines. The wines have a blackberry-cherry fruit, vanilla and spice from 24 months in French oak, 35% new (a Ravenswood trademark). 95% zinfandel, 4% Carignan, 1% mixed black grapes. It exudes power and complexity of its old vine origins. Brims with muscular balance and zin's famous berry fruit. Bight, flashy, ripe raspberry, blackberry and vanilla flavours wrapped around a soft sweet fruit core highlighted by scents of cinnamon.
7. **Rosenblum, Richard Sauret Vineyard, Paso Robles, 2001** \$32
Winemaker notes - Richard Sauret's vineyard is the highest within the Paso Robles viticultural area in the Santa Lucia Mountains, The soil consists of red clay and blue shale with some gravel and loam. The vines are 37 years old. The Richard Sauret vineyard is in Paso Robles. Aged 18 months in oak: 60% American, 40% French. This is a rich and exotic fruit packed Zinfandel. "Smooth and rich, with supple blackberry, cola, mocha and chocolate flavors that glide across the palate, finishing with firm tannins and a smoky, oaky aftertaste. Drink now through 2008." (James Laube, www.winespectator.com, Dec 01, 2003)
8. **Cline Cellars, Big Break, Contra Costa County, 2001** \$35
"The very sandy delta soils near the San Joaquin River is a unique old vine terroir, one mind successfully by the Cline family. Grape ripen earlier here and the wines tend to be more broad, juicy and spicy - mindful of old vine Grenache. This shows very fragrant eucalyptus, cran-cherry and black currant fruit with wood, smoke and spice. Creamy and sweetish palate. Score - 92. David Lawrason, Wine Access.

Upcoming Events:

Toronto Vinters: Oct. 18 - Antinori Chianti Riserva vertical

Other Events: Sept. 27. Wine Australia! The Australian Consulate and wine industry's official annual tasting. East Galleria, National Trade Centre at Exhibition Place, 100 Princes' Blvd. Proceeds to the Heart & Stroke Foundation. Admission is very limited and by invitation only. Visit www.australianwineexperience.com & once you have your invitation, purchase tickets through Ticketmaster at www.ticketmaster.ca or by phoning 416-870-8000.

"Zinfandel is like a masterpiece painting that has been hanging in the hallway for so long, the family has forgotten they even own a masterpiece."

Matt Kramer, Wine Writer