



Zinfandel – It Must be Summer!
Tuesday, June 21, 2016; 6:00 PM
Faculty Club, Univ. of Toronto, 41 Willcocks Street, Toronto
Members' Fee: \$64; Guests'/Non-Members' Fee: \$84

California is the only place in the world where the Zinfandel grape is grown which make Zinfandel synonymous with California. Zinfandel is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, grape varieties in California and today it occupies about 10 percent of all California vineyards. Modern DNA tests revealed that Zinfandel grapes are descended from an obscure Croatian grape variety - Crljenak Kaštelanski – of which little remains today. The origin of the name "Zinfandel" itself remains unknown. It's a challenging grape to grow. Its berry size varies significantly within a bunch, which leads to uneven ripening. Because of that, Zinfandel often needs to hang on the vine longer to ripen as many berries as possible. Old vine Zins, made from vines that are typically 50+ years, are coveted for their intensity - in flavor, color and balanced overall style.

Zinfandel grapes produce wines with strong flavors and tannins, aromas of berries (raspberry, blackberry, cherry, plums), slightly spicy flavours (black pepper) and often high alcohol content. As a result, Zin is usually best paired with hearty meat and spicy foods – and is great for summer BBQ's!

All of our Zinfandels come from the 2012 vintage. Near-perfect weather conditions in 2012 resulted in a California wine grape harvest which yielded generous amounts of high quality fruit, and winemakers across the state described the vintage as "excellent," "outstanding" and "ideal." In fact, winemakers were blessed with such large outputs that many struggled to find space for all the grapes!

Generally Zinfandel is drunk within a couple of years of bottling but those with higher tannins and oak aging can be kept for up to a decade. You will see from the tasting notes that four years of cellaring is a good time to start opening and enjoying these wines while they are fresh and lively.

Barbeque season has started and what better wine to serve with meat than Zins? This is a great opportunity to try a number of different Zins that have been sourced from various counties in California: 5 from Sonoma, 2 from Lodi and 1 from Napa. All of these wines have been imported from the US and so the prices are in US dollars.

REGISTER/BUY TICKETS. You must [register](#) online and pay by credit card or cheque. **NOTE: ALL ticket sales/reservations are final.** Cheques must be received by Friday, June 17th. The cheque-payment option will be disabled at midnight Tuesday, June. 14th after which only credit card sales will be accepted until Monday June 20^h or earlier if the event sells out. You will be sent an email confirmation after completing your registration. If you tried to register but did not receive your confirmation, please contact chris@torontovintners.org before trying to register again.



Tasting Notes and Information – Zinfandels

NOTE: All purchase prices are in US dollars

2012 St. Francis, Old Vines, Sonoma \$22

A new generation of winemakers, Katie Madigan and Chris Louton, continues St. Francis' long tradition of luscious, elegant, fruit-driven wines from Sonoma County grapes. "The 2012 Zinfandel Old Vines, from 50- to 110-year-old vines, is a fine value in Zinfandel. It exhibits plenty of briery, peppery, meaty, black cherry and strawberry fruit, and earth notes along with supple tannins, medium to full body, and a plush personality. Consume it over the next 4-5 years. Drink: 2015 – 2020. eRobertParker.com #216, Dec 2014. Robert M. Parker, Jr. 87 pts.

2012 Rock Wall, Monte Rosso Vineyard, Sonoma \$50

"A year in barrel and bottle allow this wine to settle into its size showing a balance beyond its alcohol. Dense, ripe and sweet in a good way, with juicy, red fruits, milk chocolate and fresh blueberry pie. The finish is long and warm with a savoury, spicy, mineral, black fruit undercurrent. Just a baby but you can drink now with a steak or wait five to seven years for it to fully blossom. Real Zinfandel." Tasted Oct 2014. [Anthony Gismondi](#), Vancouver Sun wine critic. 91 pts www.winealign.com

2012 Kenwood Vineyards, Reserve, Sonoma \$18

"The majority of vineyards used to produce the 2012 Kenwood Vineyards' Sonoma County Zinfandel are located in the Dry Creek Valley and Sonoma Valley appellations. A portion of the blend comes from old vine vineyards that have been producing excellent grapes since the 1940's. Ripe flavors of raspberry and pomegranate combine with aromatic notes of white pepper and vanilla. Full-bodied with delicate tannins provide an elegant and long finish. Winery's notes.

2012 Jeff Cohn Cellars, Boticelli Vineyard, Sonoma \$42

". . . the 2012 Zinfandel Botticelli Vineyard reveals slightly more acids as well as more briery, mountain berry-styled fruit, a tangy, spicy headiness, a full-bodied mouthfeel, and impressive purity, texture and length. It, too, should be consumed over the next 7-8 years. Jeff Cohn makes a dizzying array of wines, all of which have enormous appeal and character. Sadly, he still does not own any vineyards, but he manages to source fruit from some of the most interesting sites in California, and when they are

not mono-cépage wines, he assembles fascinating blends. Cohn is definitely a source for high-quality, full-flavored, pedal-to-the-metal wines." Drink: 2014 – 2022. eRobertParker.com #216 Dec 2014. Robert M. Parker, Jr. 93 pts.

2012 Seghesio, Old Vines Zinfandel, Sonoma \$40

Their Sonoma Zinfandel is a flagship of sorts, a well-balanced, slightly briery wine with notes of red currant. "The 2012 Zinfandel Old Vine comes from vines that are at least 50-years-old. It offers oodles of black cherry and blackcurrant fruit along with spice box, pepper and fruitcake notes. Full-bodied, heady and complex, it is the most multidimensional of these 2012 Zinfandels. It is ideal for drinking over the next 4-5 years. ." Drink: 2015 – 2020. eRobertParker.com #216 Dec 2014. Robert M. Parker, Jr. 92 pts.

2012 Brazin, Old Vines Zinfandel, Lodi \$16

The 2012 Brazin Lodi Zinfandel is big, bold and offers aromas of rich black fruit and mocha that mingle with hints of spice and vanilla. Intense, ripe plum and jammy blackberry rock the palate of this daring Zinfandel. Balanced acidity and lingering tannins add complexity, concentration and depth to the finish. Winemaker's notes. <http://www.brazinwine.com/wine/old-vine-zinfandel.html>

2012 Michael David, Earthquake Zinfandel, Lodi \$26

"This is Zinfandel at its richest. Boysenberry, vanilla and maple syrup aromas meet up with jammy fruit flavors that coat the mouth and linger on the finish. For all its fullness, it stays balanced and dry. It does not feel heavy in texture nor heavily oaked." Wine Enthusiast. 93 pts

2012 Ravenswood, Dickerson Vineyard, Napa \$30

"A wonderful effort, the 2012 Ravenswood Dickerson has such a gorgeous aroma; beautiful raspberries just flow out of its nose; quite rich on the palate and possessing superb balance and style; easily on of California's top efforts. " Wilfred Wong of Wine.com. 93 pts