

T O U C A N W I N E S

2004 Zinfandel Estate Grown, Produced & Bottled

2004 in the vineyard...

Pruning began in January during a mild winter; high winds during flowering impacted the fruit set resulting in a reduced yield. Some early winter heat combined with a very dry spring brought early development of the fruit and summer weather offered a slightly shorter growing season. In July, we pulled leaves from vines to expose the fruit and we thinned the fruit to improve quality. Veraison began in late July and by early August we had netted the vineyard and awaited full ripening. Harvest began September 9th starting with the Petite Sirah, sugars at harvest ranging from 24-24.5 Brix for the estate Zinfandel, and 25.5 for the estate Petite Sirah.

In the winery, the 2004 fruit was gently crushed by lots, cold soaked for several days and fermented in small open bins. A small basket press was used to separate pressed juice for blending. The 2004 vintage spent 11 months in 80% new French and American oak barrels.

The finished 2004 Zinfandel includes a 12% blend of the estate grown Petite Sirah and was bottled unfinned and unfiltered at 14% alcohol. Our 2004 Zinfandel is still a young-wine that's developing nicely in the bottle and will further develop over the next several years. At release, this young wine may require decanting (aeration - preferably a couple hours) to be fully enjoyed. This wine is a rich dark-colored ruby-purple Zinfandel. Once opened-up, this wine has a nose of ripe cherry and ripe blackberry on a background of rich oak; tastes of riper raspberry, wild cherry, blackberry, and what I like to call ZinBerry, a familiar full mouth-feel, with acid and medium tannins that will hold up to bottle aging. These flavors will better join together with another two-five years in the bottle.

Harvest: September 9th - 13th
Sugars: 24 - 25.5 Brix
Acid: 3.50 pH .711 TA
Alcohol: 14%
Release: 100 cases

The Toucan Wines 2004 Zinfandel is a bold young wine, richly flavored, deeply colored with a familiar mouth-feel, offering a complex balance of fruit, new oak and early elegance.



T O U C A N W I N E S

Estate Grown, Produced & Bottled

Toucan Wines is a California micro-winery and vineyard focused on our estate grown Zinfandel and Petite Sirah with a limited total production of 100 - 300 cases.

Toucan Wines is located on the beautiful central coast, in the Arroyo Grande Valley AVA, in the foothills near the Huasna Valley on a ranch known as Tar Springs. Our small 3½ - acre hillside vineyard is planted to "old clone" head-trained Zinfandel vines known for low-yields, looser clusters and balanced fruit. Grafted from the 1923 planting of the highly regarded Benito Dusi vineyard in Paso Robles, these vines thrive by producing intense Zinfandel fruit in our microclimate of warm-to-hot days and cool nights.

We truly are a family run farm and winery, we planted the vines, we perform the vineyard work, and we produce the wines on-site. As a friend said recently "every grape cluster has our name on it". We marry this fabulous fruit with both traditional and modern winemaking on a scale that makes us one of the smallest wineries and estate vineyards in California.

Small by any standard, micro-wineries like ours are focused on quality - it's our focus, attention to detail, and limited production that helps set our wines apart. The winery, located in the estate vineyard and next to the family home, produces a full-bodied and richly flavored Zinfandel taking full advantage of what the old style vines and microclimate have to offer. Our long-held dream of making fine wine fashioned from old-growth Zinfandel vines has lead to the release of our first wine. Our first release is our 2004 Estate Zinfandel - from a vintage that yielded us only 100 cases. Over time, our vineyard may produce upwards of 400 cases per vintage. In the mean time, please enjoy our 2004 Estate Zinfandel available now.

We encourage you to enjoy Toucan Wines with good food, family and friends. For updates, information, and ordering, please visit us on the web or call.

Toucan Wines

Doug Timewell and Terrie Leivers

