

# TOUCAN WINES

## 2006 Toucan Cuvee

Our 2006 Toucan Cuvee is a beautifully balanced blend of 55% Estate Zinfandel and 9% Estate Petite Sirah, plus 36% of Old Vine Carignane from the Evangelho Vineyard.

### 2006 in the estate vineyard...

Warm winter days and mild nights offered every indication that rainfall would be below average. In February, we chanced pruning later than usual to delay growth and to avoid seasonal frost and the fierce winds that break shoots in May. But in typical fashion, unpredictable weather surprised the Central Coast with a rare snow flurry in February and a late rainy season including freezing nights and very cold days in March and April. Vine vigor was abundant in 2006; the result of heavy rains two years running. The extra growth required more effort to thin the canopy and open-up the fruit zone to airflow and sunlight. We began harvesting the estate Zinfandel on September 30<sup>th</sup> and the last Zinfandel came into the winery on November 13<sup>th</sup>. The estate Petite Sirah was harvested on October 10<sup>th</sup>.

Both our estate Zinfandel and estate Petite Sirah wines spent the year in mostly new French, Hungarian, and American barrels before blending. Our 2006 Carignane made from rare old-vine Carignane grapes grown in Contra Costa County was harvested on September 19<sup>th</sup> also spend a year in fine oak barrels. To compile this blend, I selected three barrels of Estate Zinfandel from the seven barrels produced, two barrels of Carignane from five produced, and added a half-barrel of estate Petite Sirah. Once blended the Cuvee aged another 4 months in fine oak barrels (a total of 16 months in oak) prior to bottling.

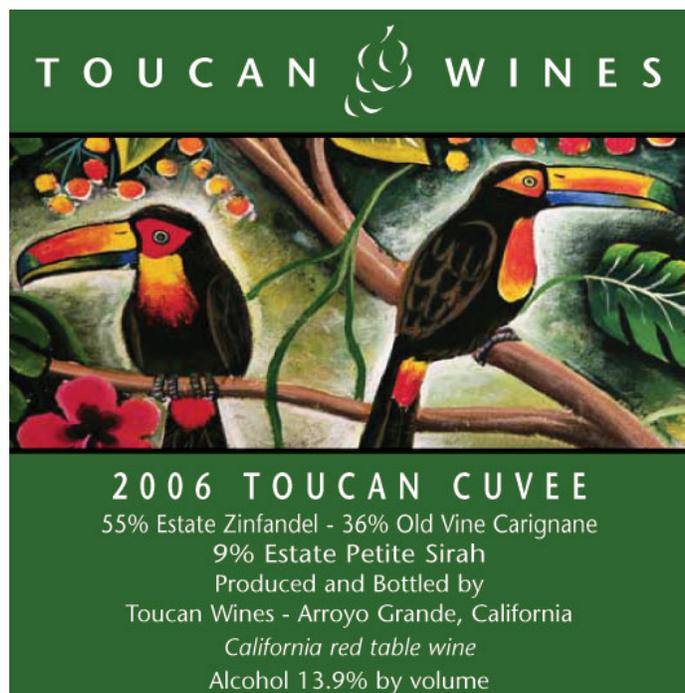
Each of these wines blended (our 2006 Estate Zinfandel, 2006 Estate Petite Sirah, and the 2006 Toucan Wines Carignane), are also bottled separately for your enjoyment.

### The finished wine...

A beautiful deep ruby color; forward black cherry and brambly fruit, vanilla toast, and a bit of spice on the nose; tastes of black raspberry/cherry, and earthy notes.

This is a very balanced wine offering a lush full-mouth feel and some good complexity. Having spent sixteen months in fine oak barrels, this wine has mellowed nicely and will continue to develop in the bottle over the next year or two. Drink now or lay down.

Bottled: February 28, 2008  
Alcohol: 13.9%  
Release: 128 cases



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## Hand Crafted, Estate Grown, Limited Production Wines

Toucan Wines is a California micro-winery and 3 ½ acre vineyard producing hand-crafted estate grown Zinfandel and Petite Sirah wines with a limited total production of about 300 cases.

Toucan Wines is located on the beautiful central coast of California, 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 and Petite Sirah 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.

Our micro-climate produces an elegant and forward Zinfandel and Petite Sirah with finesse found in the finest wines made in California. Our cool nights and warm days help deliver rich varietal favors and balanced acidity making our wines the perfect selection for fine food.

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 and Petite Sirah taking full advantage of what the old style vines and microclimate have to offer.

Doug Timewell and Terrie Leivers