

TOUCAN WINES

ESTATE ZINFANDEL

2006 Estate Zinfandel

2006 in the 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. Coupled with the cool weather and later pruning, by May our vine growth and bud-break was a month behind normal. With nature's help, the summer heat-waves narrowed our delayed development. Vine vigor was abundant and the extra growth required thinning to open-up the fruit zone to airflow and sunlight. Fruit set was consistent and prior to veraison the expected yield looked to be similar to 2005. Approaching harvest we appeared two weeks behind 2005's schedule when a weather cycle of very cold and damp days further pushed off harvest. Mid-September offered one day in the high 90's; the balance of September and early October came to us as cool and rainy weather.

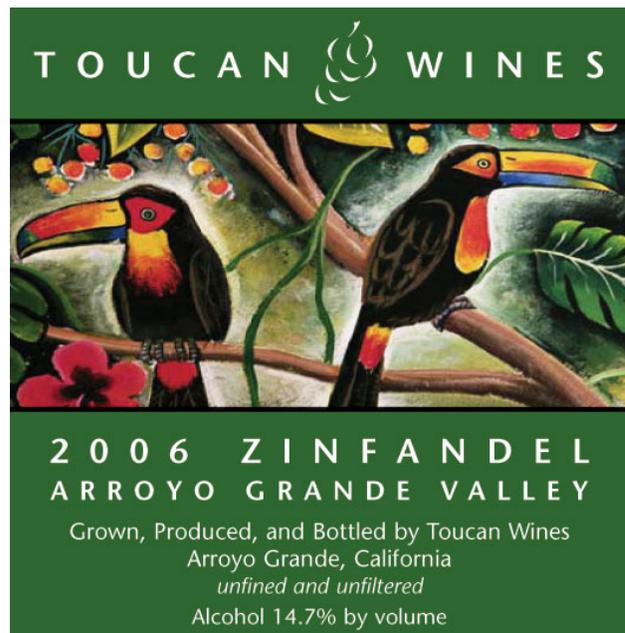
Harvest began in small lots on September 30th and finally ended November 13th after several weeks of dry, warm and clear weather. Late November and early December turned very cold encouraging us to begin pruning before the year ended; but 2006 ended very much like it began dry and mild.

Several days of cold soaking led to slow fermentation in small open bins and some lots were allowed extended maceration. Our small basket press performed a very gentle pressing and the wine placed in 80% new French, Hungarian, and American oak barrels and 20% in second year barrels for one year. Our 2006 Estate Zinfandel is a blend that includes 19% of our 2006 Estate Petite Sirah and proudly we bottled 123 cases of Estate Zinfandel unfinned and unfiltered. A separate bottling of 48 cases of the 2006 Estate Petite Sirah was also produced and released in 2008.

The finished wine...

Deep-purple in color, with black-raspberry, brambly toasted-vanilla, and a candied-cherry nose, and tastes of rich ripened blackberry-cherry, blueberry & meaty tones – some would say Syrah like with medium tannins and balanced acids. The 2006 opens up to a rich and elegant wine with an endless nose. Drinking beautifully today, opening nicely in the glass, this wine will reward those who cellar wines.

Harvest: September 30th –
November 13th
Bottled: October 20th, 2007
Acid: .7 TA
Alcohol: 14.7%
Release: 123 cases, Feb. 2009



T O U C A N  W I N E S
E S T A T E Z I N F A N D E L

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 400 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 in our small winery. 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-winereries like ours are focused on quality – it's our focus, attention to detail, and limited production that helps set our wines apart. In our winery, located in the estate vineyard and next to the family home, we produce 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

Visit us at www.ToucanWines.com