

WONDERMENT - 89pts Old Vine, Burton Ranch Vineyard Zinfandel - Lake County 2013 \$35.00

A very solid Zinfandel that consistently keys on well-ripened, berry-like fruit with a nicely placed complement of creamy oak for added richness, this bottling shows a very strong varietal signature that lifts it above its two mates and sports a little more tactile polish than either. While its integral tannins provide a bit of structural firmness, they do so without imparting undue astringency, and, if the wine will hold up and evolve for several years, it can be enjoyed in the short term as a tasty foil to slow-roasted pork ribs and hearty, well-seasoned sausages hot off the grill. Reviewed: May 2016

WONDERMENT - 87pts Pritchett Peaks Vineyard Zinfandel - Rockpile 2013 \$50.00

Zinfandels from the Rockpile appellation typically tilt to ripeness and heft, yet, while this wine is both weighty and ripe, it toes the line without stepping over to excess. Its early aromatic appeals of chocolate-tinged, slightly spicy, blackberry fruit are reiterated in its moderately deep flavors, but things do roughen up in the latter going as both tannin and heat leave their marks. It is the one in its family most in need of age, and its recommendation comes with the proviso that it be set aside for another four or five years. Reviewed: May 2016

WONDERMENT - 87pts Old Vine, Bacigalupi Vineyard. Zinfandel - Russian River Valley 2013 \$40.00

A bit muted with respect to Zinfandel's spicier traits, yet keen and constant in its blackberry fruit, this one favors sweeter oak in its make-up and, while fully ripe, shows a touch of youthful pertness. Although fairly open and accessible to start, it tightens up and gets a bit grabby and grippy as it goes, and it finishes with just enough astringency to advise waiting for another few years. Reviewed: May 2016

