


# ZINFANDEL

## a) Flavours of Zinfandel



Zinfandel is a **black grape variety famous in California**. It likes warm climate to ripen. Zinfandel drinker, are looking for the typical zinfandel best described as **mouth filling dry red wine with jammy blackberry, boysenberry, and plummy fruit**. Its traditional still gives a wine with thick and chewy structure.

 Give it a try by enjoying a glass of **Red Peak** Zinfandel from California.

Zinfandel produces large crops on poor soil in poor conditions, but it ripens so unevenly that it is not uncommon to find green and ripe berries all on the same cluster. **The style of the wine depends mostly on when the grapes are picked**. Earlier harvest will strength the cranberry and raspberry aromas in the wine while later harvest will give more black cherry, black berry and plum flavours to the wine.

Zinfandel can be treated in almost any way the producer likes. To start you can make it like a white wine, run the juice off quickly, ferment it nice and cool. Leave a fair amount of sugar in it and you will get a very pleasant white, slightly pink, wine. If the producer wants to make red, whole cluster fermentation will give fruitier, strawberryish flavours. A long maceration with the skins will add more colour to the wine as well as tannins, setting the wine up for some oak ageing.

## b) Premium Zinfandel regions

- ◆ **California**. For decades, Zinfandel was the most widely planted red grape in California until Cabernet Sauvignon surpassed it. The vine performs best in a Mediterranean climate with plenty of sun. **Dry Creek Valley** is the California' s prime Zinfandel region which offers hot days with relatively cool nights to produce good ripeness and preserve acidity. If originally red, "**white Zinfandels**" have now a great success and today outsell red Zinfandel.



- ◆ **Italy**. **Primitivo** was a widely planted grape almost unknown in the South of Italy until its resemblance to Zinfandel was noted. Studies have shown that those two grapes varieties are identical, that is why some wines have been renamed Zinfandel instead of Primitivo.



### Zinfandel Key Facts

Hot climate:                      mouth filling, thick texture, blackberry, boysenberry, plum