

2012

BIG RIVER RANCH

zinfandel

VARIETY: 92% zinfandel, 8% petite sirah**APPELLATION:** Alexander Valley**DEGREES BRIX AT HARVEST:** 26.1**pH:** 3.23**ALCOHOL:** 15.2%**CELLAR RECOMMENDATION:** Enjoy this wine through 2025

VINIFICATION NOTES: Fruit from the Big River Ranch was handpicked on September 18th, 2012. Fermentation took place over 15 days in closed-top tanks. Pumpovers were performed twice daily to allow for maximum extraction of color, flavor and tannins. Aging occurred in our wine caves for 15 months in a combination of French and American oak barrels, 20% new.

SENSORY NOTES: A full-fledged showstopper, the 2012 Big River Ranch zinfandel delivers aromas of bay leaf, cardamom and blackberry. The palate brings endless layers of texture: peppercorns lead into notes of raspberry and dark chocolate, followed by supple tannins which linger on the complex finish.

VINEYARD NOTES: The Big River Ranch property sits on a picturesque benchland above the Russian River in the Alexander Valley. The 14 acres of 110-year old vines showcase what old vine zinfandel can achieve: limited yields with dark, concentrated fruit. The deep red soils and hot summer days typical of Alexander Valley create wines full of character and complexity. Early morning fog from the nearby Russian River allows for a longer growing season for these coveted wines.

HARVEST NOTES: The 2012 harvest had what winemaker Joe Healy called, “absolutely ideal growing conditions.” Picture-perfect weather led to an abundance of high-quality fruit.

VINEYARD DETAILS:**CLONE:** Heritage**SOIL TYPE:** Sandy loam**ELEVATION:** 250 feet**VINE SPACING:** 8'x8'**YIELD PER ACRE:** 1.5-2 tons**ROOTSTOCK:** St. George**YEAR PLANTED:** 1905**TRELLISING STYLE:** Head trained, cordon**IRRIGATION:** Drip irrigation**RETAIL PRICE:** \$40. Strictly limited production.

Bella

VINEYARDS & WINE CAVES