

Birichino

Sourced from a pristine crop of thin-skinned Zinfandel vines , this wine delivers a suave style with vibrant red fruit , subtle spice, and the hallmark alpine, botanical aromas of the Santa Clara Valley terroir.

BIRICHINO



Saint Georges Zinfandel Old Vines 2021

California, USA

Region and Vineyards

The **Saint Georges Zinfandel Old Vines** is sourced from the **Lilo Vineyard**, located in the **Santa Clara Valley**, near the foothills of the **Santa Cruz Mountains**. This historic vineyard is home to **old, thin-skinned Zinfandel vines** that have proven resilient to California's challenging weather over the decades.

The vineyard benefits from a **unique microclimate** shaped by its proximity to the **Monterey Bay**, which brings in cooling coastal breezes. The combination of **warm daytime temperatures** and **cool evening conditions** ensures a long, slow ripening season, preserving the grapes' natural acidity and allowing complex flavors to develop.

The thin-skinned Zinfandel vines produce **loose clusters** of fruit, which are less prone to over-ripening. This characteristic, coupled with the vineyard's careful management, ensures a style of Zinfandel that is more balanced and perfumed compared to typical expressions of the grape.

Winemaking

The 2021 vintage brought an exceptional and **pristine crop** to the vineyard. The harvest took place on **October 20th, 2021**, notably later than previous years, reflecting the cool and even growing conditions of the vintage. This extended ripening period allowed the fruit to achieve perfect balance and concentration, while retaining moderate alcohol levels at **13.5% abv**.

Winemaking at Birichino reflects a **minimalist approach**. Primary and secondary fermentations were conducted **spontaneously** using native yeasts, preserving the natural character of the fruit and terroir. The wine was aged in **neutral barrels and puncheons**, ensuring no overt oak influence that might overshadow the Zinfandel's freshness and nuance.

Bottled in **late summer** of the following year without filtration, the wine remains **pure, unadulterated**, and vibrant, offering a transparent expression of the vineyard's unique personality.

Alcohol :13,50 %

Composition: 100% Zinfandel

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Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Bright garnet red with shimmering ruby hues.
- **Aroma**: Delicate and refined, with aromas of **red cherries**, **wild strawberries**, and a subtle hint of **botanical herbs**. Notes of **alpine freshness** and a faint touch of earthiness round out the nose.
- **Palate**: Elegant and medium-bodied, with flavors of **fresh red berries**, **cranberries**, and a soft undercurrent of spice. Fine-grained tannins and a lively acidity bring balance and structure, leading to a clean, lingering finish marked by subtle mineral and herbal notes.

Did You Know?

The **Saint Georges Zinfandel** is crafted from **thin-skinned, old-vine Zinfandel** grapes, a unique variation that sets it apart from the typically bold and ripe California Zinfandels. This vineyard's fruit offers finesse and aromatic lift, reminiscent of classic "claret" wines of the past.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Roasted pork loin with rosemary and garlic**: The wine's bright fruit and herbal notes perfectly complement the savory flavors of the pork.
- **Herb-crusted chicken with root vegetables**: Its lively acidity balances the richness of the dish while enhancing the herbal elements.
- **Grilled salmon with cherry glaze**: The wine's delicate red fruit and freshness pair beautifully with the sweetness of the glaze and the richness of the fish.
- **Mushroom and thyme risotto**: Earthy mushrooms and herbs harmonize wonderfully with the wine's subtle spice and minerality.

91 WineEnthusiast

Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 91 Points (2018)

This bottling, mostly from 1922-planted vines, is a uniquely intellectual spin on Zinfandel, proving unlike most other takes on the grape and somewhat simple, yet constantly calling out for attention. Aromas of red plum, cranberry and light herbs lead into light strawberry, dried meat and more herb tones, as well as a hint of blood. These elements all grow more ethereal with time.

93 Wine&Spirits

Wines & Spirits (W&S) : 93 Points (2017)

Jon Locke and Alex Krause pull this wine from a 90-year-old own-rooted vineyard just outside the Santa Cruz Mountains AVA. It's a pleasure to taste over the course of a few days, starting out tart and crunchy, then filling out as dramatically as a spinnaker sail as it takes on air. Taut and generous at once, it's refreshing and delicious. Best Buy

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Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 90 Points (2015)

Fresh and broad aromas of strawberry and red currant meet with peppercorns and crushed oregano on the nose of this bottling of old-vine Zin from southern Santa Clara County. It's a lighter style on the palate, with bright red plums, crushed river rock and a good helping of herb flavors.