



Hess

A fruit-forward expression of Mendocino's terroir, Artezin Zinfandel 2020 captures the vibrant soul of California Zin with ripe berries, subtle spice, and silky tannins.



Artezin Zinfandel 2020

California, USA

Region and Vineyards

Artezin Zinfandel 2020 hails from **Mendocino County**, in northern California, where **ridgeline and benchland vineyards** rise above the **Ukiah Valley**. This area is prized for its **Mediterranean climate**, which combines **warm days** that promote full ripening and **cool evenings** that preserve acidity and freshness. The result is Zinfandel grapes that are concentrated, deeply colored, and rich in natural flavor complexity.

The vineyards are **sustainably farmed**, often by **multi-generational family growers**, and reflect the rugged, rural charm of Mendocino. The diverse soils—ranging from loam to gravel and volcanic composites—contribute to a wine of layered expression, where ripe fruit, spice, and minerality coalesce. The long growing season here favors gradual phenolic development, allowing Zinfandel to showcase its full varietal typicity.

Winemaking

The 2020 Artezin Zinfandel is composed of **86% Zinfandel**, **12% Petite Sirah**, and **2% Carignan**, a blend that enhances both structure and aromatic depth. The Petite Sirah lends tannic grip and dark fruit tones, while the Carignan contributes lift and acidity. Fermentation is carefully temperature-controlled to retain primary fruit purity.

The wine is aged in **100% French oak barrels**, primarily **1- to 2-year-old wood**, which imparts subtle notes of spice without overpowering the varietal character. This oak regimen supports integration and roundness, complementing Zinfandel's inherently bold personality. With **14.8% alcohol**, the wine is full-bodied but balanced, emphasizing texture over heat.

Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Ruby red with violet reflections and bright clarity.
- **Aroma:** Inviting nose of pomegranate, boysenberry, and blackberry pie, framed by hints of clove and cinnamon.
- **Palate:** Juicy raspberry and red cherry cola dominate the entry, supported by soft tannins and a touch of black pepper. The finish is round, smooth, and subtly spiced.

Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 82% Zinfandel, 14% Petite Syrah, 4% Carignan



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Did you know?

The name **Artezin** is a fusion of “artisan” and “Zinfandel,” a nod to the winery’s mission to craft **authentic, small-lot Zins** that celebrate California’s heritage vineyards. The brand is part of the **Hess Collection**, but operates independently with a focus on classic old-vine Zinfandel grown in lesser-known but exceptional terroirs like Mendocino County.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **BBQ pork ribs with smoky sauce:** Matches the wine’s ripe fruit and spice notes with sweet-savory intensity.
- **Grilled sausage with fennel and caramelized onions:** Echoes the pepper and cherry cola nuances.
- **Mole poblano with roasted turkey:** The wine’s smooth texture and baking spices complement the depth of the mole.
- **Aged cheddar with fruit chutney:** The richness and tanginess of the cheese balance the Zinfandel’s vibrant acidity and dark berry core.



Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 90 Points (2019)

Briary, meaty aromas lead to a great mix of fruit and savory flavors in this medium to full-bodied wine. Moderate tannins keep it lively on the palate and subtle French oak accents develop in the glass with time.

