



Orin Swift

Orin Swift's 8 Years in the Desert is an impressive California red blend that captures the bold essence of Zinfandel, enhanced by the structure of Petite Sirah and Syrah. This wine represents an ode to the legacy of Zinfandel, celebrating its resilience and character.

8 Years in the Desert 2021

California, USA

ORIN SWIFT

Region and Vineyards

This wine is deeply connected to California's rich **Zinfandel tradition**, particularly from vineyards known for producing **high-quality Zinfandel**. The warm climate and varied terroirs of regions such as **Sonoma** and **Napa** are ideal for growing these sun-loving grapes. Orin Swift carefully selects vineyard sites that allow **Zinfandel** to fully express its potential, ensuring perfect ripeness.

The complexity of the wine is enhanced by the addition of **Petite Sirah and Syrah**, which are sourced from equally renowned sites. These complementary varieties thrive in California's diverse terroir, adding depth and structure to the blend.

Winemaking

Zinfandel forms the backbone of *8 Years in the Desert*, with **Petite Sirah and Syrah** playing supporting roles. This vintage was aged for **six months in French oak**, of which **32% were new barrels**. This use of French oak imparts a subtle spice and toasty vanilla quality, rounding out the natural fruit intensity of the wine.

With an **alcohol content of 15.6%**, the wine boasts richness and power, balanced by the winemaker's skilled approach to acidity and tannin management. This blend showcases Orin Swift's mastery in creating full-bodied wines with a polished, seamless texture.

Tasting Notes

- **Color:** In the glass, this vintage reveals a near-opaque **dark crimson**, with purple edges.
- **Aroma:** The bouquet is complex, offering layers of **ripe blueberry**, **black plum**, and **wild raspberry**, underpinned by hints of **espresso**, **sweet oak**, and a touch of **cedar**.
- **Palate:** The entry is velvety, enveloping the palate with flavors of **blackberry jam**, **reduced strawberry**, and a hint of **rhubarb**. A lively acidity balances the rich fruit, while the finish is smooth, marked by **ripe tannins**, notes of **pluot**, and **dark chocolate**.



Alcohol :15,60 %

Composition: 25% Zinfandel, 25% Syrah, 25% Petite Syrah, 25% Grenache



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Did You Know?

Orin Swift's *8 Years in the Desert* pays tribute to **David Phinney's journey** with Zinfandel, a grape he famously worked with for years before creating this signature wine. After a period of hiatus from producing Zinfandel, the return with *8 Years in the Desert* marks a significant milestone in Phinney's winemaking career, hence the wine's evocative name.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Beef Bourguignon:** The robust flavors of the wine complement the rich, savory notes of slow-cooked beef and red wine sauce.
- **Rack of Lamb with Rosemary:** The wine's ripe berry flavors and tannic structure balance the earthy, herbal tones of lamb.
- **Grilled Portobello Mushrooms:** The smoky, umami-rich mushrooms pair beautifully with the dark fruit and spice elements of the wine.
- **Aged Gouda:** The caramelized, nutty flavors of aged gouda are enhanced by the wine's fruitiness and oak-driven complexity.



Robert Parker (RP) : 92 Points (2021)

There are almost 50,000 cases of the 2021 Zinfandel Blend 8 Years in the Desert, a mix of Zinfandel, Syrah, Petite Sirah and Grenache. Mixed raspberries, blackberries and blueberries appear on the nose, while the palate is full-bodied, ripe and supple, yet with just enough softly dusty tannins, a velvety texture and no suggestion of raisined fruit. With its amiable nature and fresh, lingering finish, it should win lots of fans.

