

# Recommended California Zinfandels

For complete reviews, see the Buying Guide of this or previous issues or [www.winespectator.com](http://www.winespectator.com).  
An alphabetical listing of all wines tasted for this report begins on page 131 of this issue's Buying Guide.

## TOP WINES

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
<b>MARTINELLI Zinfandel Russian River Valley Giuseppe &amp; Luisa 2005</b> Explosive richness, with blackberry, raspberry, cracked pepper, licorice and smoky-meaty oak. Jammy yet balanced.	93	\$48
<b>RUBICON ESTATE Zinfandel Rutherford Edizione Pennino 2004</b> Rich and loamy, with savory wild berry and brambleberry fruit shaded by pretty, toasty oak. Hint of pepper sneaks in.	93	\$40
<b>ORIN SWIFT The Prisoner Napa Valley 2005</b> Zesty wild berry, spice and fresh tobacco, with focused, well-structured blackberry flavors. Plush, rich and concentrated.	93	\$35
<b>DASHE Zinfandel Dry Creek Valley Louvau Vineyard Old Vines 2004</b> Expressive and focused, with black raspberry and pepper. Toasty oak aromas and jammy black cherry and spice flavors.	92	\$32
<b>FOUR VINES Zinfandel Amador County Maverick 2004</b> Firm and well-structured, exhibiting ripe raspberry, wild berry and blackberry flavors supported by integrated tannins.	92	\$20
<b>FOUR VINES Zinfandel Sonoma County The Sophisticate 2004</b> Raspberry, tar, pepper and nutmeg, with just the right amount of tannins. Gains complexity on the finish.	92	\$20
<b>HARTFORD FAMILY Zinfandel Russian River Valley Fanucchi-Wood Road Vineyard 2005</b> Intense, with blackberry, lead pencil and cracked pepper aromas and tightly wound plum, bay leaf and licorice notes.	92	\$50
<b>HAYWOOD Zinfandel Sonoma Valley Rocky Terrace Los Chamizal Vineyard 2004</b> Blackberry, cherry and wild berry flavors. A touch of sage, underbrush and brambly, dusty berry. Deep and complex.	92	\$35
<b>NAVARRO Zinfandel Mendocino 2004</b> Elegant, with a complex array of raspberry, wild berry and strawberry fruit that's delicate and refreshing. Supple.	92	\$19
<b>VALDEZ Zinfandel Russian River Valley Lancel Creek Reserve 2004</b> Beautifully crafted. Luscious, juicy blackberry aroma and succulent flavors of black cherry, vanilla, spice and smoke.	92	\$35
<b>HAYWOOD Zinfandel Sonoma Valley Los Chamizal Vineyard 2004</b> Ripe, zesty style, with layers of dusty blackberry, blueberry and wild berry that are fresh and vibrant. Good acidity.	91	\$20
<b>MAZZOCCO Zinfandel Dry Creek Valley Quinn Vineyard 2004</b> Ripe but supple. Intriguing aroma that blends blackberry and tart cherry. Finishes with peppery spice, vanilla and toast.	91	\$24
<b>ORCHID HILL Zinfandel Paso Robles Primi 2004</b> Vivid aromas of wild berry, boysenberry, toasty oak and spice. Supple flavors of black cherry, licorice and mocha.	91	\$24

## TOP VALUES

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
<b>CLINE Zinfandel Sonoma County 2004</b> Explosive fruit bomb. Ripe black raspberry, plum and smoke aromas lead to supple, jammy flavors that turn rich.	91	\$20
<b>BUEHLER Zinfandel Napa Valley 2005</b> Supple and balanced, with pretty raspberry and cherry fruit and lively notes of spicy red pepper and candied apple.	90	\$17
<b>DASHE Zinfandel Dry Creek Valley 2004</b> Intriguingly rustic, chewy core. Aromas of ripe raspberry, wild berry and spice. Blackberry cobbler and licorice flavors.	90	\$22
<b>SEGHEsIO Zinfandel Sonoma County 2005</b> Jam-packed with ripe cherry and boysenberry fruit and backed with notes of spice, star anise and toasty oak.	90	\$20
<b>BOGLE Phantom California 2003</b> Big, rich, dense, chewy. Filled with vibrant blackberry, spice, tar, anise and sage. Finish packs a wallop.	88	\$16
<b>EDMEADES Zinfandel Mendocino County 2005</b> Spunky, notable for its wild berry, white pepper and mint aromas and its supple raspberry, mocha and anise flavors.	88	\$18
<b>FOUR VINES Zinfandel California Old Vine Cuvee 2004</b> Ripe and spicy on the nose, with black cherry and wild berry aromas. Elegant yet firmly tannic on the palate.	88	\$13
<b>BUEHLER Zinfandel Napa Valley 2004</b> Complex and balanced, with ripe berry, fresh earth, pepper, sage and herb notes that stay focused on the long finish.	87	\$16
<b>JOEL GOTT Zinfandel California 2005</b> Fresh jammy cherry aromas, with hints of spice and toasty oak, lead to zesty plum and licorice flavors.	87	\$17
<b>MAGITO Zinfandel California Panorama 2005</b> Dark berry, wild berry and earthy cedar flavors are fresh, vibrant and lively. Nice peppery scents. Long, complex finish.	87	\$18
<b>SOBON ESTATE Zinfandel Amador County Rocky Top 2004</b> White pepper, raisin and licorice notes, with focused flavors that take on a mineral firmness on the finish.	87	\$18
<b>RAVENSWOOD Zinfandel Lodi Old Vine 2004</b> Appealing for its ripe plum and licorice aromas and its slightly untamed dried cherry, spice and blueberry flavors.	86	\$15
<b>CLINE Zinfandel California 2005</b> What more could you ask for at this price? Zesty and jammy. Cinnamon, cherry and spicy anise notes. Fruit-bomb finish.	85	\$10