



CHATEAU MONTELENA
ESTABLISHED 1882

2012 Montelena Estate Zinfandel

Notes from the Winemaker, Matt Crafton, November 2014

INTRODUCTION

A wily old winemaking guru once told me that every wine in the world can be categorized as either a “wine of effort” or a “wine of place.” A “wine of place,” is entirely unique; it can’t be engineered, scaled-up, copied or recreated. It should be a looking glass into a vineyard site that is truly special, which is why there are so few of these wines made today. They are, by definition, scarce and much more challenging to make. That is what we do here.

VINTAGE WEATHER

2012 was all about abundant sunshine. Not a hot or incredibly early vintage, the weather cooperated and helped us produce wines of finesse, elegance, and balance.

NOSE

Aromas of Bing cherry, blackberry, and fig merge with tobacco, flint, and a hint of sage.

PALATE

There is a certain rusticity in the chalky tannin foundation that dances in and out of focus amidst the bright acidity, dark mocha, and kirsch.

FINISH

The latent minerality intensifies on the finish contrasting and balancing subtle notes of black pepper and toast.

Technical Information

HARVEST DATES

September 13 – October 4

ALCOHOL

14.4%

BLEND

99% Zinfandel
(68% *Primitivo clone**)
1% Petite Sirah

BARREL AGING

14 months, French and American oak, 15% new

BOTTLING DATE

March 2014

RELEASE DATE

March 2015

WINEMAKER

Matt Crafton

**Based on UC Davis analyses of Primitivo and Zinfandel, the varieties are genetically identical*