



Zinfandel 2015

Napa Valley, California

ESTATE

Chateau Montelena's history is one of the deepest and most storied in the Napa Valley and California. Founded just north of Calistoga in 1882, it was one of the largest wineries in the state. Prohibition put an end to Montelena's winemaking, and the next major era began in 1968, when Jim Barrett purchased the estate. Jim fell in love with this exceptional property, blessed with a complex mix of soils, slopes and biodiversity of wildlife and fauna. He had a dream of creating wine at the level of the great First Growths of Bordeaux, and set about replanting the vineyard, outfitting the winery with modern equipment, and studying the processes necessary for farming and winemaking at the highest quality level.

WINE

Zinfandel is California's heritage grape, and as anyone who has tasted long-lived examples from the 1970s knows, it can produce wines of tremendous quality, both immediate pleasure and age-worthiness, and all in a rich and spicy berry profile. Like every wine they produce, Montelena looks first and foremost to take the tremendous fruit they work with and transmit it in a complex, balanced package.

VINEYARD

Soils: The decades old Zinfandel, planted in craggy volcanic soil, combined with 10-year-old vines in cobbly alluvial soil, produces a wine with complex character.
Farming: Chateau Montelena remains committed to sustainable farming and produces wine in their solar powered winery.
Grape Varieties: Zinfandel

WINEMAKING

Fermentation: Primary in stainless steel and malolactic in oak
Aging: French/Irish/American oak barrels for 16 months, 15% of which are new.
Alcohol: 15.5% ABV

VINTAGE

Climate: The 2015 vintage will be remembered as a warm growing season overall. The effects of the drought induced vine stress early in the spring and high temperatures persisted throughout summer. These conditions forged incredible ripeness of flavor and really let the old vine character show.

TASTING NOTE

"On the nose, the rich, ripe character of the vintage comes across immediately on the nose with blackberry jam and cocoa along with cinnamon, clove and sandalwood. The brambly, smoky character of the old vine Zinfandel is on display here as notes of tobacco, flint, and bacon fat comingle with fresh figs, black walnut, and plum sauce. The finish comes gracefully amidst dusty tannins, dark chocolate, black pepper and crème de menthe." – Winemaker Matt Crafton