

# RODNEY STRONG

ZINFANDEL

*Vintage: 2003*

*Knotty Vines*



“Fresh, bright berry fruit from our heritage Russian River vineyard combined with the peppery spice from our Dry Creek vineyard and ripe jamminess from our Alexander Valley vineyards.”

RICK SAYRE, WINEMAKER

*Rick Sayre*

**Place matters. *Try ours!***



*Vintage:* 2003

RODNEY STRONG VINEYARDS  
2003 KNOTTY VINES ZINFANDEL  
ESTATE VINEYARDS

Winemaker:	Rick Sayre
Blend:	95% Zinfandel, 5% Petite Syrah
Appellation:	Sonoma County
Alcohol:	14.0%
Total Acidity:	0.65 gm/100ml
pH:	3.62
Residual Sugar:	0.16%
Cellar & Fermentation:	15 months in 80% American, 20% French, < 1% New

### *History*

Zinfandel vines have been thriving in Sonoma County for the last three centuries. When Rod Strong first acquired benchland acreage on the west side of the Russian River, he wisely chose to leave untouched the 15 acres of old, gnarled zinfandel vines that had been growing there since 1904. Today we still harvest zinfandel from those same old vines, along with a handful of vineyards we farm to the north in both Dry Creek and Alexander Valleys.

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### *In the Vineyards*

The 2003 vintage began with a long wet spring, which delayed bloom on most varieties. This was followed by a relatively cool summer, which prolonged harvest initially, but a September heat wave allowed everything to catch up, and we finished picking all of our Zinfandel by the end of October.

### *Tasting Notes*

Fresh, bright berry fruit from our heritage Russian River vineyard combined with the peppery spice from our Dry Creek vineyard and ripe jamminess from our Alexander Valley vineyards make for wonderful diversity of flavor showcasing the best that zinfandel can offer in one wine. Aging for 15 months in primarily American oak enhances the zinfandel's inherent spicy qualities, while the ebullient fruit of this medium rich wine suggests enjoyment over the next 2 to 4 years.



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