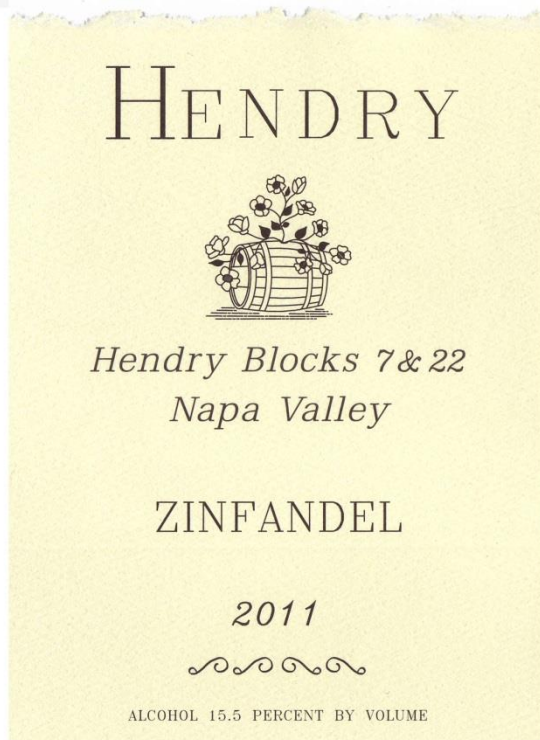


YEAR'S BEST ZINFANDELS



96 | 2011 Hendry Vineyard Napa Valley Zinfandel Blocks 7 & 22

The scent of this wine is worth the price of admission, a combination of sage, sun and wet rock, of forest pines and dark red fruit. It reminded Wolfgang Weber, one of our panelists, of hiking in the north coast, “in the morning, when the sun burns off the dew and picks up the scents of plant resins.” The fragrance may ground the wine in the Napa Valley hills, but the texture is pure benchland, about as silky as a wine can be. The Hendry family farms these blocks of clone 2 zinfandel at the edge of the hills west of the city of Napa, one block planted in 1975, the other in 1995. Those vines hit in 2011 with a deliciously plump zinfandel, the kind of dynamic red wine that proves Napa Valley’s greatness. (1,620 cases) Hendry Ranch, Napa, CA February, 2014

91 | 2011 Hendry Vineyard Napa Valley Zinfandel Block 28

While at first appearing black and overripe, this sheds its reduction with air, revealing a deep, soil-inflected richness and broad, gentle red fruit. Saturated with a pungent black raspberry flavor, this would be delicious with seared duck breast, if decanted four or five hours before dinner. (955 cases) Hendry Ranch, Napa, CA

