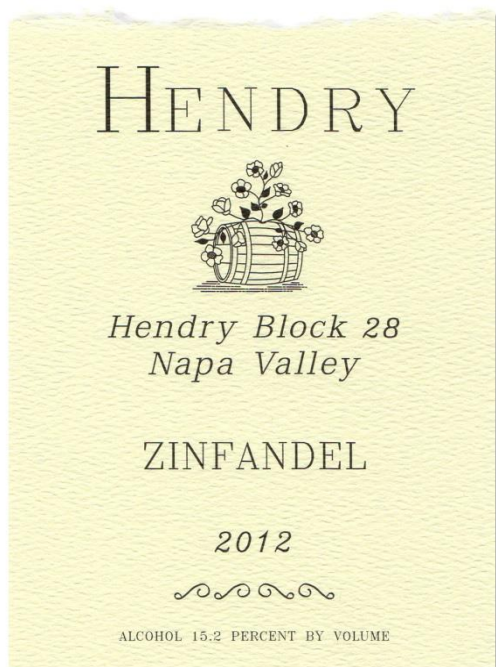


Wine & Spirits

MAGAZINE

YEAR'S BEST ZINFANDELS

Our blind panels tasted 296 new-release American zinfandels over the past 12 months. Our critics rated 27 as exceptional (90+).



94 | 2012 Hendry Vineyard Napa Valley Zinfandel Block 28

George Hendry once helped farm the Brandlin Ranch on Mount Veeder, where he took cuttings of the old-vine zinfandel when the property was sold in 1995. He grafted that budwood onto St. George rootstock at his benchland vineyard west of Napa and north of the San Pablo Bay, where morning fog and offshore breezes in the afternoon help to cool the vines. This 2012 parallels the hearty depths of an old-vine zin, the ripe sour-cherry flavors driven by alcohol but not heated by it, the tannins buzzing with energy. It's brisk and bright, complex and joyous. (1,378 cases) Hendry Ranch, Napa, CA February, 2015

90 | 2012 Hendry Vineyard Napa Valley Zinfandel Blocks 7 & 22

From nine acres of benchland soil west of the town of Napa, these blocks were planted to clone 2 zinfandel in 1975 and 1995. Aged for 15 months in French oak, this has the richness of a full-bodied claret, supple, heady and black. The dark fruitiness of cloud-ear mushrooms combines with a touch of volatility in the finish, a brisk, earthy zin to decant for braised lamb. (1,510 cases) Hendry Ranch, Napa, CA February, 2015

