

CONNOISSEURS' GUIDE TO CALIFORNIA WINE

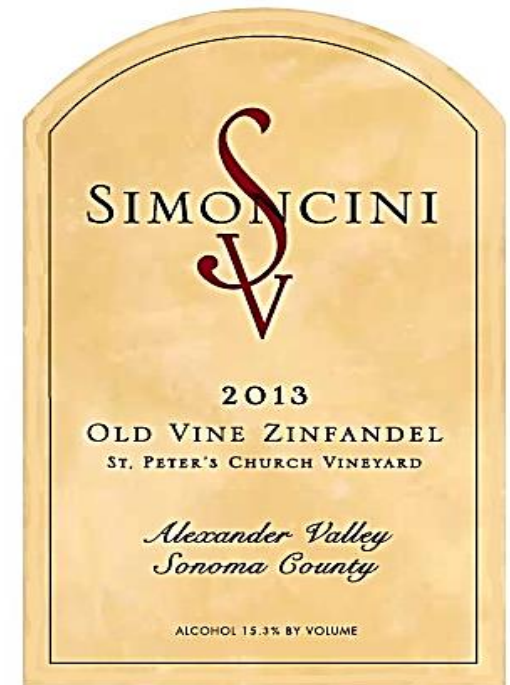


June 2018

●● 92 SIMONCINI Old Vine St. Peter's Church Vineyard 2013, Alexander Valley

As definitively fruity as it is uncompromisingly ripe and unwavering in its varietal authority, this very deep and invitingly juicy young Zinfandel is a serious, full-sized offering that reveals layer upon layer of blackberries, raspberries, briary spice and complementary creamy oak. It is powerful stuff to be sure, and it makes no apologies for ripeness, but, in the end, it is so very rich and generously filled as to make its slight finishing heat but a minor distraction. Although it is a delicious and wide-open wine that is ready to enjoy with hearty fare without waiting, it is sufficiently well-balanced to keep handily for at least another five or six years.

\$60.00



- **TWO PUFFS: (91-94 points)** A highly distinctive wine. Likely to be memorable.
- **ONE PUFF: (87-90 points)** Fine example of a type or style of wine. Without notable flaws.

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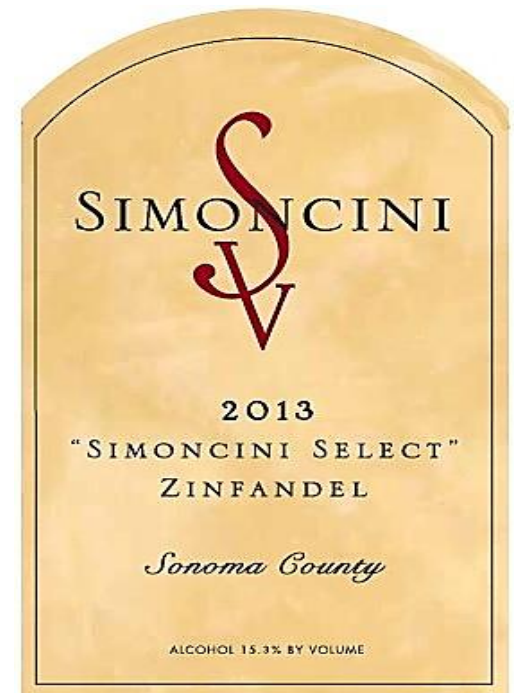


June 2018

●● 91 SIMONCINI Select 2013, Sonoma County

Here is solid, well-structured Zin that, while fully ripe, wears its ripeness extremely well and deftly avoids so much as a hint of raisiny excess. It is defined first and last by its precise blackberry fruit and has, as it now approaches its fifth birthday, begun to take on intriguing touches of sweet and spicy complexity that move it well beyond simple fruitiness. Albeit on the fleshy and full-bodied side of things, it is enlivened by plenty of youthful energy and is so nicely balanced that it can age effortlessly for another five years.

\$40.00



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● 90 SIMONCINI Grande Rosso 2013, Sonoma County

70% Zinfandel; 20% Petite Sirah; 10% Cabernet Sauvignon. This strapping, decidedly sturdy, mix of varieties offers flashes of ripe berry richness that testifies to its high percentage of Zinfandel, while showing a sense of solidity and sinewy strength that recall classic Sonoma County, old-vine field blends. It is a substantial, full-bodied wine working with highlights of temperate oak along with complexing glimmers of black pepper and loamy soils, and it has the requisite richness to support what are still fairly gruff tannins. It will pair successfully with hearty hunks of beef or lamb in the short term, but it has the concentration and depth to ensure a good half-decade of positive growth.

\$60.00



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January 2019

91 SIMONCINI Saitone Ranch Vineyard Old Vine Russian River Valley 2013

Giving lie to the notion that Zinfandel is a wine best drunk while young, Simoncini's five-year-old effort from the Saitone Ranch Vineyard is a ripe and weighty wine that, while starting to show some of the complexities of age, is still on the somewhat big and burly side of things with a liberal dose of tannin underlying its very deep and impressively extracted dark berry fruit. It can be enjoyed now providing that the meal is right and one likes Zins with plenty of grip, but it will age effortlessly for at least another five years and will progressively become a little more polished as it does. \$65.00



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