

# 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

## **\*\* 91 SIMONCINI** **Select** **Sonoma County 2013**

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

## **\* 90 SIMONCINI** **Grande Rosso** **Sonoma County 2013**

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 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

## **\* 89 SIMONCINI** **Estate** **Dry Creek Valley 2013**

At first a tad younger seeming than its same-aged mates and not quite as immediate or expansive on the nose, this very ripe and fairly gutsy Zin shows a good sense of raspberries and plums once it gets going and gamely hangs onto its fruit even as palpable heat and grippy tannins start to build at the finish. It is not so tough as to warn off drinking now provided that the menu is sufficiently rich to stand up to the challenge, but we see benefit in a couple more years of keeping and would not be in a rush to drink it down.

\$45.00