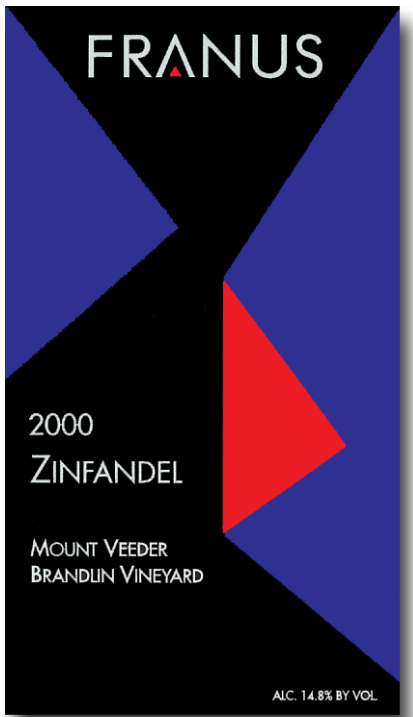


2000 FRANUS ZINFANDEL MOUNT VEEDER BRANDLIN VINEYARD



Vineyard:	Brandlin Vineyard, Mount Veeder
Composition:	92% Zinfandel 8% Charbono, Mourvèdre, Carignane
Harvest Date:	September 23, 2000
Fermentation:	90 days, peak temperature 88°
Maceration:	14 days total, before pressing
Oak Aging:	16 months 100% French "Burgundy coopers" 33% new
Bottling Date:	February 27, 2002

This is a special release of Brandlin for me in that it represents a decade of bottlings. In 1991 I produced my first wine from this magnificent property, and even though there are stylistic differences in those ten years, the consistency and unique personality of Brandlin Zinfandel shine through in each.

Brandlin Zinfandel grows on an eastern exposure hillside about 1200 feet above the valley floor. These unirrigated head trained vines are a part of Napa Valley history, and probably the oldest vines on Mount Veeder. Crop levels remain under three tons per acre and always result in concentrated wines packed with layers of flavor.

As many of you know, I have a tendency to talk about intuition in winemaking, and the energy and soul of a wine. In that vein, I will call this a miracle wine. Sluggish or difficult fermentations are among the biggest concerns of winemakers during harvest. After a perfectly classic fermentation, the 2000 decided to take a break. We did some of the usual tricks, but I have no question in my mind that it was the eyes lifted upward and the summoning of the wine gods that got this wine bubbling again in the middle of winter. The extra long, slow fermentation likely added yet another dimension to the wine as well.

The Brandlin terroir reveals itself with its nose of mineral, allspice, boysenberry, and truffle notes, and this 2000 version leaps out much more than the 1999 did at this point in its life. It also offers a fatter more viscous mouth impression. No need to mention the color, it is always dark and saturated. Brandlin also distinguishes itself with its structure. Loaded with rich fruit flavors, it is held in check by a firmness and tannin level not typically seen in Zinfandel.

In the light of the proliferation of wines on the market, it is vital that a wine exhibit personality. I guarantee that Brandlin will never be lost in the pack.