

2012 PETER FRANUS BRANDLIN VINEYARD ZINFANDEL



Vineyards:	Brandlin Vineyard 100% Mount Veeder
Composition:	92% Zinfandel 8% Charbono, Mourvèdre, Carignane
Harvest Date:	October 26, 2012
Fermentation:	12 days, peak temperature 84°
Maceration:	14 days total before pressing
Oak aging:	16 months 100% French Oak 35% new "Burgundian Coopers"
Bottling Date:	March 10, 2014
Production:	1198 cases 750ml

TA 0.58 g/100 ml

pH 3.73

Alc. 14.7%

RS 0.58 g/L

CALIFORNIA RETAIL PRICE \$38

As my mother used to say when I would take her up to Brandlin Vineyard, high in the hills of Mount Veeder, "this is as close to heaven as I am going to get." Rest assured, she is definitely where she is supposed to be, probably hanging out with Chester Brandlin—who passed away last year—having a glass of wine or two. The vineyard is in a magnificent and magical setting where you can truly feel the energy that ultimately finds its way into the wine.

In the early 1920s, Henry Brandlin and sons Richard and Chester began planting vines on an eastern exposure hillside 1200 feet above the Napa Valley floor. Today these are probably the oldest vines on Mount Veeder, and they continue to produce intensely flavored grapes, growing for all these years without any irrigation other than the winter and spring rains. The vines are head-trained, independent of any trellis to support them.

After three challenging vintages, we were rewarded in 2012. Sunshine and a warm dry spring gave way to mild and ideal growing conditions through the summer. Not only did this result in high quality grapes, but an abundant supply as well. It was a welcome relief to this veteran winemaker who has experienced more than 30 harvests in Napa Valley.

We ferment our Zinfandels at temperatures slightly lower than those for Bordeaux reds to accentuate the zesty and forward fruit character of the variety. Aging exclusively in Burgundian French oak barrels adds complexity as well as refinement to the wine.

The 2012 Brandlin is medium dark ruby, with aromas that slowly reveal their charm. There is a character unique to the vineyard that sets itself apart from all others. I have worked with these grapes since 1991, and there is an elusive quality that always intrigues—red raspberry, rose petal, lavender, white pepper, clove, ginger, and anise. A gentle entry with good acidity sustains the palate and announces, wine can be both fun and delicious!

This is a wine that will certainly age, and reminds me of our outstanding 2007. I will reiterate what I said at that time. It is a privilege to work with such magnificent fruit.