



Brown Estate

Exceptional Zinfandel from Napa Valley's First African-American-Owned Winery

In 1980, Bassett and Marcella Brown purchased a derelict farmhouse on 500 acres in the Chiles Valley AVA of Napa Valley. The Chiles Valley microclimate, characterized by extreme temperature shifts throughout the course of each day, proved perfectly suited to cultivating Zinfandel grapes. The Brown family's fruit soon gained tremendous popularity with such Zinfandel producers such as Green & Red and Rombauer.

In 1995, the 2nd generation created the Brown Estate label and produced the first bottle of Estate Zinfandel. From the outset, their wines have been highly rated: Wine Spectator and Robert Parker have consistently rated the wines 90 points and higher and they are some of the most popular wines at the famous ZAP.

In 1998 a fire destroyed the entire vintage and their wine library - everything except for a mere 16 bottles. It was a devastation that could have permanently shuttered the winery. Brown Estate survived through what the family calls their "extreme doggedness," the assistance of other Napa Valley vintners, and a glowing review from Robert Parker - one of the only people to have tasted the destroyed vintage.

Today, at a time when most Napa Valley drinkers are Baby Boomers, Brown Estate has built a large following among Gen X and Millennials through the use of the hashtag #brownzin and harnessing the power of social media.

#brownzin



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