

BLACK SEARS

2021 Estate Zinfandel

Tasting Notes:

Visually, the 2021 Black Sears Estate Zinfandel is a dark, eggplant purple, highlighted by a ring of Persian plum red at the glass's edge. The nose opens with boysenberry and prunes before evolving into notes of white pepper, leather, and the floral hints of lavender and daphne. On the palate, this is a rich, concentrated wine that offers an abundance of ripe, dark fruit and a slightly higher pH than usual. Soft and welcoming on the approach, it blossoms into a bouquet of black cherries, currants, graphite, and black pepper on the palate with a bit of a bite. And by the time it hits the back of the throat, the classic Black Sears earthiness overtakes the heat and even the fruit, keeping things grounded on Howell Mountain's forest floor, where unparalleled biological diversity comprises the soil's microbiome.

Pairing Notes:

Pair with your most comforting Italian comfort food, a vibrant and fresh mixed-greens salad, warm garlic bread, and the most decadent dark chocolate you can find for dessert. Set the volume knob to a reasonable 5, and drop the needle on John Coltrane's *Giant Steps* as you quietly contemplate the Circle of Fifths and the mathematical foundations of Harmony. Then open Nathan Hill's hilarious new novel, *Wellness*, and consider that maybe all health is simply the result of the Placebo Effect.

Cases Produced: 246

Specs:

ABV: 16.1%

Type: Purple Drank

Region: California

Sub-Region: Napa Valley

Appellation: Howell Mountain

Bottling Date: March 2023

Vintage: 2021

Varietal: Zinfandel

pH: 3.78

Acidity: 6.3 g/L

Farming: Sun up to sun down, son. At night sometimes too.

Aging: 18 months in French oak, 1/3 new, 1/3 year-old, 1/3 neutral

Harvest Date: 8/24/21

Winemaker: Thomas Rivers Brown

Vineyard: Black Sears block 1