



now and for the next six years. *Editors' Choice.* —S.H.

93 Black Sears 2006 Zinfandel (Howell Mountain); \$42. The vineyard has been source to extraordinary Zinfandels from other producers, such as Howell Mountain Vineyards and D-Cubed. Now here it is under its own brand. It's a wonderful Zinfandel, powerful and complex, yet dry and elegant. The tannins are strong, but finely ground, and the raspberry, cherry, red currant, cola and Asian spice flavors are luscious. Drink now and through 2012. —S.H.

93 Williams Selyem 2007 Forchini Vineyard Zinfandel (Russian River Valley); \$48. A big, boldly powerful but elegant Zinfandel, full-bodied in the mouth and dry, offering waves of ripe fruits and spices. The cool 2007 vintage has kept the wine from being too ripe, resulting in balanced flavors of blackberries, currants, licorice, bacon, cocoa, black pepper and Asian spices. Just terrific. Drink over the next six years. —S.H.

92 Ottimino Vineyards 2006 Von Weidlich Vineyard Zinfandel (Russian River Valley); \$36. This is the driest, most elegant and balanced of Ottimino's new single-vineyard Zinfandels. It has a Cabernet-like structure, although the wild blackberry, mulberry, plum and exotic spice flavors are all Zin, as are the dense, sandpapery tannins. Good now with upscale rich beef and cheese dishes, and should develop gradually in the bottle for many years. —S.H.

90 Ottimino Vineyards 2006 Rancho Bello Vineyard Zinfandel (Russian River Valley); \$26. A wildly flavored, tannic and exuberant Zinfandel that showcases the variety's exotic personality. Dry and full-bodied, it has brambly flavors of blackberries, black currants, licorice, mocha and smoky cedar, liberally sprinkled with dusty Asian spices. Drink now—2013. —S.H.

90 Titus 2007 Zinfandel (Napa Valley); \$27. Delicious and succulent, a gigantic Zinfandel. Impresses for the powerful ripeness of the blackberry plum and cherry fruit, accented with waves of smoky wood, cocoa and Asian spices. The tannins are rich and strong. Will age for a long time, gradually losing density and becoming softer and sweeter —S.H.

90 Z-52 2006 Truchard Vineyard Zinfandel (Napa Valley); \$24. Shows all the Zinny character you could want, with masses of wild forest berries, sweet red currants, licorice, bacon, smoky sandalwood and peppery spices. The pedigree comes in the dryness and the fine balance of tannins, acids and oak. A first-rate, upscale Zin. *Editors' Choice.* —S.H.

89 Ottimino Vineyards 2006 Ottimino Vineyard Zinfandel (Russian River Valley); \$32. This is a big, powerful Zinfandel. It's very strong in blackberry, blueberry, cocoa and peppery spice flavors, and also very tannic and dry. A dramatic wine, it will do well with barbecue and heavily spiced beef dishes. Should develop bottle age through 2013 or so. —S.H.

89 Rued 2006 Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley); \$25. Very good Dry Creek Zin, robust and dry and spicy. Really gets the tastebuds watering, with its tart flavors of sour cherry candy, red currants, blueberries, tart raisins and oodles of peppery spices. Drink this lusty wine with barbecue. *Editors' Choice.* —S.H.

88 Hanna 2006 Bismark Mountain Vineyard Zinfandel (Sonoma Valley); \$65. Despite the "valley" appellation, this is one of the highest elevation vineyards in Sonoma County. It's a dense, tannic, concentrated wine, with a deep core of black currants, black pepper and chocolate. Zinfanatics will absolutely love it, but it's very high in alcohol, almost Port-like, although the finish is absolutely dry. —S.H.

88 Kokomo 2007 Zinfandel (Sonoma County); \$22. A lovely Zinfandel, soft and delicious. It has very ripe flavors of red cherries, red currants, raspberries, cocoa, anise and peppery spices, wrapped into rich, finely ground tannins. Drink now. —S.H.

88 Mazzocco 2007 West Dry Creek Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley); \$32. Mazzocco's Zins are dependably superripe and high in alcohol. This '07 is a big, strong wine, offering flavors of blackberry and blueberry jam, spread onto buttered white toast and sprinkled with anisette. It's delicious and heady. —S.H.

88 Wilson 2007 Diane's Reserve Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley); \$60. A big, soft, ultrarich style of Zinfandel. It has very

high alcohol, with flamboyant flavors of milk chocolate, oozingly ripe blackberries and blueberries, anise liqueur and black pepper. The finish is totally dry. Lusty and heady. —S.H.

87 Kokomo 2007 Perotti Vineyards Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley); \$27. Very ripe. You can taste the sunshine in the blackberry, cherry, blueberry, mulberry and cocoa flavors. They burst in the mouth, carrying waves of spices and fruity acids through a spicy, slightly hot finish. At its best now. —S.H.

87 Peachy Canyon 2007 Mustang Springs Zinfandel (Paso Robles); \$36. Spicy and dry, this Zin offers flavors of currants, tobacco, pepper and cocoa. The tannins are thick, but acidity is low, giving it a soft mouthfeel. Could be more concentrated, but it's an elegant wine. —S.H.

87 Valley of the Moon 2007 Zinfandel (Sonoma County); \$16. A nice, smooth, rich Zinfandel that shows classic flavors at a fair price. It's fully dry, with rich, fine tannins and ripe flavors of berries, currants, dark chocolate, cola, cedar and lots of peppery spices. Good now with broiled steak, beef tacos, juicy burgers and Thai beef dishes. —S.H.

87 Wilson 2007 Tori Vineyard Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley); \$32. A good, lusty Zinfandel to toss back with excellent barbecue and roasts. It's a big, full-bodied, fruity wine, packed with dry, tannic Zinny flavors of wild berries, beef jerky and crushed black pepper. Drink now. —S.H.

87 Z-52 2006 Zinfandel (Lodi); \$12. A great buy at this price for its richness and overall integrity. Has a medium body, with fine, fuzzy tannins and bone-dry, complex flavors of wild berries, currants, herbs, tobacco and tons of peppery spices. *Best Buy.* —S.H.

86 Mazzocco 2007 Maple Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley); \$40. With more than 16% alcohol, this Zin has a hot mouthfeel, even for Dry Creek Zinfandel. Still, it's dry and smooth, with savory flavors of blackberry jam, chocolate, red and black currants, bacon and pepper. It's a good example of its type, and of Mazzocco's house style. —S.H.

86 Peachy Canyon 2007 Especial Zinfandel (Paso Robles); \$40. There's a musty aroma to this wine that detracts, and the