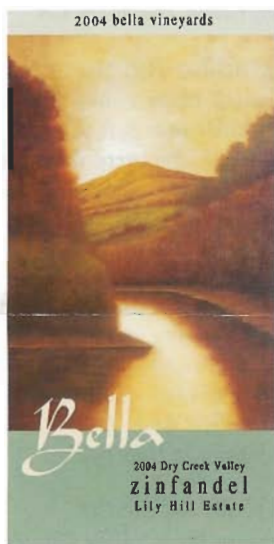


# Zinfandel

21 wines recommended from  
108 new releases tasted by blind panel;  
reviewed by Joshua Greene



**93 | Bella** \$34  
**2004 Dry Creek Valley Lily Hill Estate Zinfandel** This wine has a zin berry intensity that's pure Dry Creek Valley, along with the floral lift of violets. Those sweeter high notes contrast with a dark, savory character, a deep umami flavor of brown figs and salty chocolate. It's elegant rather than thick, the fruit of 85-year-old bush vines in the eastern hills of Dry Creek. Decant a bottle for grilled lamb. (900 cases) *Bella Vineyards, Healdsburg, CA*



**93 | Carol Shelton** \$28  
**2004 Mendocino County Wild Thing Cox Vineyard Zinfandel** Is it the floral scent running through the wine, the fiery spice of red fruit, the lasting mineral edge of freshly

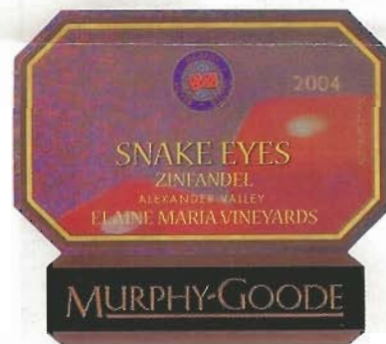
turned red dirt, or the particular cool, Mendo-Mediterranean zing of acidity that makes this wine so delightful? It's the wild yeast ferment that gives the wine its name, and the 50-year-old head-pruned vines on rocky loam that build the intensity. The freshness of the acidity is almost addictive, and may have you grabbing a second slice of zucchini-flower pizza before you've finished the first. (1,500 cases) *Carol Shelton Wines, Windsor, CA*



**92 | Bella** \$34  
**2004 Alexander Valley Big River Ranch Zinfandel** An antique style of zinfandel, from 100-year-old vines yielding meager bunches of concentrated fruit, this is substantial and delicious. Scents of candied plums, of blackberries and honey would make this seem as sweet as treacle if it weren't also bitter, balanced in a pleasingly dry finish. It's subtle rather than blunt, a generous red for a roast turkey drumstick. (1,350 cases) *Bella Vineyards, Healdsburg, CA*

**91 | Alderbrook** \$34  
**2004 Dry Creek Valley Three Goose Zinfandel** The coastal scents of a redwood forest infuse this red-fruited zin. The complex aromas seem more like an umami-rich pinot noir in their seaweed and briny tension. As suited to grilled quail as it is to roast goose. (144 cases) *Alderbrook Vineyards & Winery, Healdsburg, CA*

**91 | Dashe** \$22  
**2004 Dry Creek Valley Zinfandel** Bright, zesty strawberry and raspberry flavors last through this classical zin. It balances peppery tension and warm, alcohol richness in a full, generous style. Serve with braised pork shoulder, like Cuban pernil. (3,830 cases) *Dashe Cellars, Oakland, CA*



**91 | Murphy-Goode** \$35  
**2004 Alexander Valley Snake Eyes Elaine Maria Vineyards Zinfandel** Rustic in its youth and blunt with raspberry jam flavors against staunchly dry tannins, this needs years to evolve into those tannins and the sharp, mineral acidity. It grows more complex and heady with air, a touch green, a touch pruney and entirely zin. (1,025 cases) *Murphy-Goode Estate Winery, Geyserville, CA*



**90 | Kunde** \$16  
**2002 Sonoma Valley Zinfandel** With the flavor of black raspberries on a velvet nap, this feels concentrated and complete with