



Beekeeper

Zinfandel, Black Sears Vineyard "Old Vine Reserve"
Howell Mountain, Napa Valley 2012
Nicknamed 'Black Bee'

Grape: 99% Zinfandel 1% Petite Sirah

Vineyard: Black Sears Vineyard, Dry Farmed, Old Vines (Planted in 1975) Organically grown grapes using bio-dynamic practices.

Appellation: Howell Mountain, Napa Valley

Vintage: Bottled - Dec 17th, 2013

Winemaker: Clay Mauritsen, Emma Kudritzki and Ian Blackburn

Alcohol: 15.2% **RS:** 2 g/1000ml **PH:** 3.79

TA: 5.66 **Oak:** 100% French - 30% New for 15 months

Production: 4200 Bottles (350 Cases)

Product Info & Orders
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About

The historic Black Sears Vineyard returned my call in Summer of 2012, I was looking for some "famous" hillside fruit to grow the Beekeeper brand and to give our clients another peek at our quality approach. I called many of the famous vineyards, but reputable hillside Zinfandel is highly spoken for and getting really hard to find. Luckily, Black Sears returned the call; our timing was very good.

Black Sears Vineyard is located at 2400 feet on top of Howell Mountain in Napa Valley. The vines, planted in the 1970's are dry farmed (no irrigation) and also farmed organically, with biodynamic practices. Planted on St. George rootstock, the bud wood came from the Hayne Vineyard in St. Helena (one of Zinfandel's "Heritage Clones"). The fruit set was huge in 2012, but optimal conditions provided even ripening and 2012 will be considered a great vintage, especially for Black Sears. The resulting Beekeeper Cellars wine is 99% Zinfandel and 1% Petite Sirah. It spent 15 months in French Oak, 30% new. It is un-fined, but gently filtered at bottling.

Winemaker Tasting Notes: A dark ruby colored wine from rim to rim with a nose of spicy cracked black pepper, cold steel, graphite, dried herbs, violets, wild berry and dark plum, and hints of salted caramel. The mouth is rich, endowed and pronounced; with broad structure, ample tannin, and power, yet balanced within its large frame. Beekeeper Cellars focuses on crafting beautiful Zinfandel, made from pedigree hillside vineyards with distinctive character and quality winemaking techniques.

Awards



95 points - 3 Puffs Connoisseurs Guide: 🌟🌟🌟
(Top Ten 3 Puff wines of the year)

Over the past several years, Beekeeper Zinfandels have consistently ranked among our very favorites, and the winery's first bottling from the renowned Black Sears Vineyard follows form and takes a place at the head of the class. It is an enormous wine of great depth and richness, yet it is never oversized or clumsy, and it seamlessly marries lovely oak to its wonderfully well-extracted fruit. It is highly recommended for its varietal purity and focus, but it earns an extra round of applause for its very serious and ageworthy structure, and pulling its cork before at least four or five years have passed would be nothing short of a shame. Be forewarned, however, this is no mild and meek Zinfandel.

Stephen Tanzer's

INTERNATIONAL WINE CELLAR

91 points Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar

Bright purple. Displays deeply pitched dark berry preserve, licorice and floral scents, along with smoke and vanilla qualities and a hint of mocha. Sweet and expansive on the palate, offering intense blueberry and cherry liqueur flavors and a touch of fruitcake. Energetic and spicy on the powerful, persistent finish, which features supple tannins and a persistent floral element.



94 Points- Review by Robert M. Parker, Jr. - eRobertParker.com (Mar 2016)

Lastly, the 2012 Zinfandel Black Sears Vineyard from Howell Mountain tips the scales at 15.2% alcohol and boasts a production of 350 cases. This is 99% Zinfandel and 1% Petite Sirah from this high-elevation site in eastern Napa Valley. This sexy, deep, full-bodied, luscious wine has a dense ruby/purple color, loads of blackberry, licorice and floral notes, a full-bodied opulence, stunning purity, and a long, heady finish. This Howell Mountain Zinfandel should drink well for decade or more. Kudos to Beekeeper, as they seem to be on an impressive track of quality.