



**Beekeeper**  
**Zinfandel "Secret Stones"**  
**Rockpile, Sonoma County 2015**

**Grape:** Zinfandel (85% Zinfandel & 15% Petite Sirah)

**Vineyard:** Madrone Spring Vineyard, Dry Farmed, California Certified Sustainable Wine Growing

**Appellation:** Rockpile, Sonoma County

**Vintage:** 2015 - Bottled February 22, 2017.

**Winemaker:** Clay Mauritson, Emma Kudritzki & Ian Blackburn

**Alcohol:** 14.4% **PH:** 3.74 **TA:** 6.300 (g/1000 m)

**Aged:** 17 months in 100% French Oak (25% new)

**Production:** 280 Cases

**Price:** \$75



**Product Info & Orders**  
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## About the Vintage

The drought influenced 2015 vintage started with cool stormy conditions, resulting in a difficult flower set and chicks and hens (small unfertilized berries) in the clusters. Extensive table sorting resulted in tiny yields and smaller than average berry sizes with lower than normal acidity but with great concentration and an abundant nose.

### Mission:

We aim to make wine that reintroduces the quality wine audience to Zinfandel. Our favorite compliment "I don't usually like Zinfandel, but I love yours." We aim to build a reputation for quality inside the Cabernet and Meritage audience that has more in common with our style. We made this wine with all the attention and quality of the great wines we position ourselves around, and while some may not appreciate the premium effort and costs involved, we are resolved to make great wine that requires some patience and can reward additional cellarage.

### Winemaker Tasting Notes:

The resulting blend displays a highly spiced set of concentrated dried fruits, fresh cracked black pepper, patient pending "purple crayon" perfume, dried underbrush, and bitter sweet chocolate. Our step high altitude hillsides provide defined stoney minerality characteristics, and add to the complexed nose that will continue to evolve in the bottle. The ripe forward nature of 2015 is unique, and should allow 2015 to be accessible earlier but will reward considerable time in the cellar.

## Awards

### 93 Points - Purely Domestic Wine Report

The nose is a Deeply Saturated meat and earth with cranberry, tapenade, raspberry and pepper. The palate entry is firm and savory meat, licorice and carbon with nectarine, blossom, raspberry and red apple. Drink 2019 - 2026.

### 96 Points and 3 Puffs - Connoisseurs Guide to Fine Wine

Sporting the density and muscular structure that we have come to expect in Beekeeper Zins, the latest Secret Stones offering is a fascinating, multi-faceted look at the variety that evokes an unmistakable sense of fruity depth and potency as well as yet-to- be-fully-revealed complexity. Its slowly expanding, dark berry aromas are laced with elements of soil and spice that are carried into its very solid, impressively concentrated, somewhat brooding young flavors, and, although presently slightly roughed up by its late-arriving tannins, it possesses such fruity stamina that there is simply no doubting that great things lie ahead. It belongs in the cellar for now and not at the table, and drinking it before it has had another four or five years of age would be doing it an unforgivable injustice.

### 93+ Points - Wine Advocate

The 2015 Zinfandel Rockpile Secret Stones is medium to deep garnet-purple in color and delivers dark fruited, earthy notions of blackberry compote, baked blueberries and plum preserves with nuances of charcoal, scorched earth and espresso. Full-bodied and built like a brick house in the mouth, it has a firm structure of chewy tannins and lively acid supporting the densely packed black fruit and earthy layers, finishing long and savory. 280 cases produced.