



## Beekeeper Zinfandel, Montecillo Vineyard, Sonoma County 2015

**Grape:** 95% Zinfandel & 5% Petite Sirah

**Vineyard:** Montecillo Vineyard, Dry Farmed  
California Certified Sustainable Wine Growing

**Appellation:** Sonoma Valley AVA, Sonoma County

**Vintage:** 2015 - Bottled February 21, 2017.

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

**Alcohol:** 14.0%

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

**Production:** 3216 Bottles (268 cases)

**Price:** \$65

### Contact Us

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## About the Vintage:

The extreme low yields were a result of overcast cool weather during bloom. The cool weather in May extended bloom time, resulting in a fair amount of unfertilized berries (Chicks & Hens). These unfertilized berries essentially turned into sugar cubes on the cluster. A high focus on post destemmer sorting allowed us to carefully identify and remove these berries. The combination of the fourth year of drought, low yields, and a condensed harvest made quality oriented winemaking decisions easy to make and the small quantity of wine we produced have lovely balance, richness, texture, concentration, and depth.

**Winemaker Tasting Notes:** Montecillo will forever be famous for varietal correctness; this juicy, rich, textural 2015 hillside wine boasts defined cherry, blueberry and plum skin character, with assertive cracked pepper and spice. Beekeeper makes wines that showcase both our high standards and high quality fruit designations. Clay Mauritson and Emma Kudritzki Hall provide day to day winemaking and give Ian Blackburn (aka “chef”) with spectacular wine to blend and study. Unlike other Zinfandel producers, our goal is to showcase a vineyard’s site and Beekeeper style. Our strict grape selection minimizes the jammy character that often masks the qualities of a top vineyard site. Our high-tier aging and blending (Petite Sirah and press fractions) allows us to find the wine’s inner “Beekeeper” balance. We use specially chosen French Oak barrels (100% French/ 15 months/ 25-30% new) that add refinement, texture, and nuance that integrate seamlessly by year two. Drink now, or let the wine improve for several years in the cellar and enjoy it until 2025. As usual, the virtue of patience is rewarded with properly aged Beekeeper wines. We also recommend drinking our wines just north of cellar temperature around 60 degrees.

## Awards

### 95 Points + 3 Puffs - Connoisseurs Guide

Striking in its depth and a bold, big-boned rendition of serious structure that begs for time in the cellar, the latest from Beekeeper is an authoritative Zinfandel of great substance and strength. Its boundless, blackberry-like fruit is enriched with integral oak and deft touches of sweet spice, and, although not in the least lacking for ripeness, it stays clear of compromising heat. It will not come into its own for a good half-dozen years, and we have no qualms about predicting that it will age beautifully and reward keeping for another decade after that. While a bit different than previous efforts from this winery in that it recalls the extra concentration of a fine Amarone, it is a collectable Zin that takes its usual place among the very best of the vintage.

### 92 Points - Purely Domestic Wine Report

The nose is bright red berry with notes of sleek spice, gravel, pepper overlaid beautiful ripe cherry. The palate shows beautiful texture, weight and definition. Polished blueberry, accented with cranberry and currant. Drink 2016 – 2023.

### 92+ Points - Wine Advocate

The medium to deep garnet-purple colored 2015 Zinfandel Montecillo Vineyard has a very serious, rather broody nose of baked black plums and blackberry pie with hints of tar, chargrill, licorice and fertile loam. Medium to full-bodied, the palate sports taut, muscular black fruit and a rock-solid frame of chewy tannins, with superb freshness and a very long earth and mineral-laced finish. 268 cases produced.