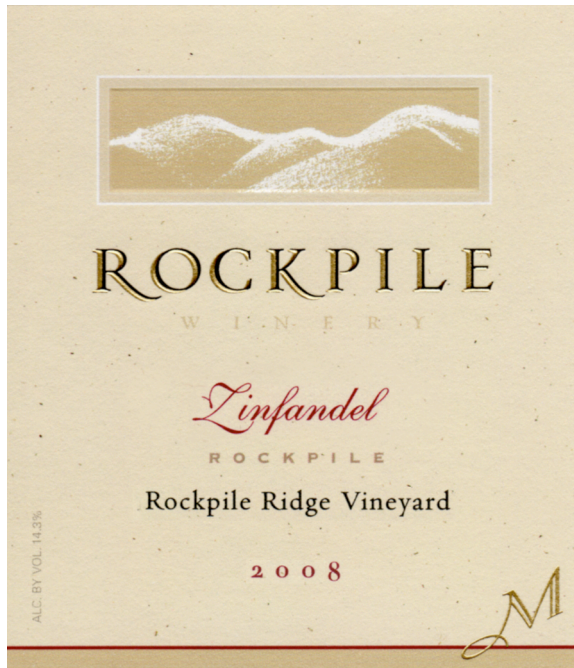


2008 Mauritsen Rockpile Ridge Vineyard Zinfandel



Production:	Approximately 457 cases
Appellation:	Rockpile
Composition:	85% Zinfandel 15% Petite Sirah
Vineyards:	Rockpile Ridge Vineyard
Alcohol:	15.5% by volume
Aging:	15 months in oak barrels 60% French 40% American

Winemaker Notes

Our family's Rockpile Ridge Vineyard is located at nearly 1,200 ft elevation in the Rockpile appellation. This vineyard has sweeping sun exposures from southeast to northwest and consists of nine distinctly different blocks of Zinfandel. The blocks are all harvested at different times and fermented separately to insure the integrity and uniqueness of the individual blocks. Working with the different sun exposures, soil compositions, slopes, and drainages is a winemaking dream come true and what makes our Rockpile Ridge Zinfandel so spectacular.

2008 was an interesting year to say the least. In fact, if we never have another year like it, it will be too soon. At bud break, we could tell that our crop was going to be off significantly. Where we would normally see two or three bunches per shoot, we saw one. Couple that with one of the worst frosts that we have seen in 40 years, gusting winds during bloom, an uncharacteristically hot September, and we ended up with about 50% of our normal production. The quality is as good as ever, but there is just not very much of it!

The bright notes of ripe blackberry and raspberry are complimented by hints of vanilla, black pepper, and minerals on the nose. Bright fruit dominates the front palate, giving way to a lush mouth feel and ample tannins. The finish is prototypical of Rockpile, long and focused. Full bodied with balanced acidity, this wine will age gracefully for the next 5-7 years.

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