

## It's Not All About Zinfandel

By Snooth Staff



Zinfandel lovers unite in Sonoma's Dry Creek Valley. Eno-tourists are anxious to visit the area known to some as the Zinfandel grape's spiritual home. But please, don't come for the Zinfandel alone.

Dry Creek Valley's small, family owned wineries are a true treat for the eno-tourist looking for unparalleled tasting room experiences. The area is just two miles wide and sixteen miles long, boasting a patchwork of metamorphic, igneous, and sedimentary rock soils. The roads undulate through densely forested hills among the gorgeous, oftentimes very old vines. The history of winegrowing in the valley dates back to the late 1800s.

Dry Creek Valley is a can't-miss trip on your next spin through Sonoma, even for those who don't adore Zinfandel. A recent Snooth tasting reveals just how many grapes are possible in this special slice of California. Here are some favorites:

### **Quivira Vineyards Fig Tree Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc Dry Creek Valley 2014**

Herbal lemon drop and butter cookie aromas with a tart citrus note and some tropical fruits. Focused and citrusy on the palate with bright flavors of sour straw candy, light melon and a hint of mango. Pleasant and crisp with good fruit expression and a zesty spice throughout.

### **Pedroncelli Dry Rose of Zinfandel Dry Creek Valley 2015**

Smoky, tarry aromas with dark musk and tart mixed berry on the nose. This is a bit green on entry but over delivers on rich spice and zesty earth, a fruit blend of cranberry, cherry and raspberry and a bold baking spice finish.

### **Sbragia Family Vineyards Andolsen Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Creek Valley 2012**

Pleasantly aromatic tea leaf and clay aromas with cherry and mixed berry aromas, black pepper and a hint of violets. Rich, full bodied red fruit palate of red currant, raspberry and cherry, dark chocolate on the mid palate and a creamy texture coming through on the finish supported by a lattice of chewy tannins and medium-bold acidity. Good complexity and ripe fruit with just a touch of fresh herb and baking spice to finish. 90 pts

### **Collier Falls Hillside Estate Petite Sirah Dry Creek Valley 2012**

Decadent buttercream and vanilla aromas with oak spice and a light savory note coming through amidst black currant and blackberry fruit. Chewy tannins and herbed fruit on the palate with dried basil and sage leaf framing raspberry, cherry and cranberry fruit. The fruit is delicate and candied but retreats on the finish leaving behind floral notes of earth and chewy tannins.

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