

Santa Cruz Sentinel

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California Wines of the Week: Holiday wines

By Stacey Vreeken

All month we'll be offering suggestions of wines that pair well with holiday foods and fall entertaining. Versatile pinot noir, hearty zinfandel and creamy chardonnay complement the table. This week focuses on zinfandel.

Zinfandel with its bold, hearty flavors will warm you right up and pair with hearty foods, especially meats and red sauce. Labels are often festive and make nice house gifts.

ARMIDA WINERY 2015 POIZIN DRY CREEK VALLEY, SONOMA

The winery: Armida Winery's PoiZin Dry Creek Valley is smooth, bold and a bit sweet. Flavors of plum, cherry, pepper and fig are followed by a tart finish. Armida, though based in Sonoma County, has a tasting room in Capitola Village.

Cost: \$25

Details: www.armida.com

BELLA WINERY 2014 LILY HILL ZINFANDEL

The winery: Bella Winery's Lily Hill Zinfandel is the single vineyard, flagship offering from the winery, made from zinfandel vines planted in 1915. Only available from the Sonoma winery or Web site, the well-constructed wine flows from beginning to end. Cherries, blackberries, walnuts, orange peel and fig on the finish complete this dry zinfandel. A polished, well-made zinfandel.

Cost: \$45.

Details: www.bellawinery.com

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