

IRONSTONE VINEYARDS RESERVE  
“ROUS VINEYARD” ANCIENT VINE ZINFANDEL 2022  
Lodi, California



**TASTING NOTES:** Crafted from 113-year-old “Ancient Vine” Zinfandel vines, this wine is rich, seamless, and expressive. Aromas and flavors of ripe blackberry, brown spice, clove, caramel, and subtle vanilla lead to a plush palate with well-rounded tannins and a long, dark fruit-driven finish.

**VITICULTURE:** The Rous Vineyard, planted in 1909 on St. George rootstock, is a 10-acre, single-source site in the Mokelumne River AVA. These head-trained, old-vine Zinfandel vines yield just 2.5 tons per acre, delivering exceptional concentration. Purchased by Craig Rous in 1994, the vineyard was transitioned from White Zinfandel back to Red through specialized pruning, upgraded to drip irrigation, and powered by solar energy. Naturally farmed with minimal intervention—where lizards and spiders provide pest control—the vineyard sits on sandy and sandy loam soils that enhance purity and expression.

**VINIFICATION:** Hand-harvested fruit was fermented in small rotary fermenters, followed by extended maceration for depth and structure. The wine was then aged in small French & American oak barrels for 24 months in naturally temperature-controlled (60°F) underground caverns, enhancing richness, texture, and varietal character. Careful handling throughout preserves the true expression of world-class Lodi Zinfandel.

**FAMILY:** In 1926, the Kautz family began farming in the Lodi region and in 1958, John Kautz Farms was founded. In 1988, John and his wife Gail, along with their children, Stephen, Kurt, Joan and Jack, built a state-of-the-art winery and entertainment facility in the town of Murphys, the heart of the Gold Rush era, producing their first vintage in 1989. They followed this purchase with Bear Creek, one of the oldest continuously running wineries in Lodi, in 1997. Their vineyard holdings grew exponentially over the next 30 years, to 7,000 acres in both the Sierra Foothills and Lodi. Ironstone’s location in Calaveras County, affectionately known as the “Queen of the Sierras,” boasts mineral-rich, volcanic terroir, ideal for growing the wide range of varieties that run the gamut, from Chenin Blanc to Zinfandel.

**PRODUCER:** Ironstone Vineyards

**REGION:** Lodi, California

**GRAPE(S):** 100% Rous Vineyard Zinfandel

**ALCOHOL:** 14.5%

**TOTAL ACIDITY:** 5.70 G/L

**RESIDUAL SUGAR:** 3.40 G/L

**pH:** 3.82