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— Ratings —

Vintage Charts



United States [</vintage-charts/region/united-states>]

➤ **California/Zinfandel**

[< Return to All Regions](/vintage-charts) [</vintage-charts>]

Vintage

Napa

Sonoma

Drink Window

Description

[2019 \[/wine
/search?submitted=Y&
vintage\[\]=2019&
varietal\[\]=Zinfandel&
regions\[\]=v18:California\]](/wine/search?submitted=Y&vintage[]=2019&varietal[]=Zinfandel®ions[]=v18:California)

93-96

93-96

NYR

A warm growing season that produced supple, juicy, fruit-filled wines for short-term drinking

[2018 \[/wine
/search?submitted=Y&
vintage\[\]=2018&
varietal\[\]=Zinfandel&
regions\[\]=v18:California\]](/wine/search?submitted=Y&vintage[]=2018&varietal[]=Zinfandel®ions[]=v18:California)

92

94

Drink or hold

Nearly ideal growing season, with generally rich and structured wines that are also consumer-friendly

[2017 \[/wine
/search?submitted=Y&
vintage\[\]=2017&
varietal\[\]=Zinfandel&
regions\[\]=v18:California\]](/wine/search?submitted=Y&vintage[]=2017&varietal[]=Zinfandel®ions[]=v18:California)

90

91

Drink or hold

Hot and unusually dry growing season led to wildfires in October; ripe wines with variable quality

[2016 \[/wine
/search?submitted=Y&
vintage\[\]=2016&
varietal\[\]=Zinfandel&
regions\[\]=v18:California\]](/wine/search?submitted=Y&vintage[]=2016&varietal[]=Zinfandel®ions[]=v18:California)

92

95

Drink or hold

Akin to the 2015s, with the best showing polish and plush textures

2015 [/wine /search?submitted=Y& vintage[]=2015& varietal[]=Zinfandel& regions[]=v18:California]	92	94	Drink or hold	Jammed with fruit; more concentrated and ageable than 2014
2014 [/wine /search?submitted=Y& vintage[]=2014& varietal[]=Zinfandel& regions[]=v18:California]	93	94	Drink or hold	Fresh and fruit-forward but balanced and complex
2013 [/wine /search?submitted=Y& vintage[]=2013& varietal[]=Zinfandel& regions[]=v18:California]	91	92	Drink	Lively but concentrated wines with good structure built for long-term drinking

2012 [/wine /search?submitted=Y& vintage[]=2012& varietal[]=Zinfandel& regions[]=v18:California]	89	91	Drink	Fruit-forward, soft and approachable
2011 [/wine /search?submitted=Y& vintage[]=2011& varietal[]=Zinfandel& regions[]=v18:California]	89	88	Drink	Variable quality; best wines are structured and vibrant
2010 [/wine /search?submitted=Y& vintage[]=2010& varietal[]=Zinfandel& regions[]=v18:California]	88	88	Drink	Tough growing season; quality varies, but many flavorful, well-balanced wines

[2009 \[/wine
/search?submitted=Y&
vintage\[\]=2009&
varietal\[\]=Zinfandel&
regions\[\]=v18:California\]](/wine/search?submitted=Y&vintage[]=2009&varietal[]=Zinfandel®ions[]=v18:California)

92

92

Drink

Long, cool
season; wines
are balanced
and elegant,
with typically
modest alcohol
levels

[2008 \[/wine
/search?submitted=Y&
vintage\[\]=2008&
varietal\[\]=Zinfandel&
regions\[\]=v18:California\]](/wine/search?submitted=Y&vintage[]=2008&varietal[]=Zinfandel®ions[]=v18:California)

94

93

Drink

Eccentric
growing season,
but wines show
surprising
richness and
balance

2007 [/wine /search?submitted=Y& vintage[]=2007& varietal[]=Zinfandel& regions[]=v18:California]	92	91	Drink	Growing season was ideal; wines are supple and elegantly ripe, but with good backbone
2006 [/wine /search?submitted=Y& vintage[]=2006& varietal[]=Zinfandel& regions[]=v18:California]	90	90	Drink	Top wines are fruit-forward, elegant and balanced; well-structured
2005 [/wine /search?submitted=Y& vintage[]=2005& varietal[]=Zinfandel& regions[]=v18:California]	91	89	Drink	Complex, well-structured wines with tannins built for aging

[2004 \[/wine
/search?submitted=Y&
vintage\[\]=2004&
varietal\[\]=Zinfandel&
regions\[\]=v18:California\]](/wine/search?submitted=Y&vintage[]=2004&varietal[]=Zinfandel®ions[]=v18:California)

85

86

Drink

Warm year
produced
jammy wines;
ripeness often
over the top

Vintage ratings: 95-100, classic; 90-94, outstanding; 85-89, very good; 80-84, good; 75-79, mediocre; 50-74, not recommended

A score range indicates preliminary analysis based on barrel samples and/or a limited sampling; many wines of the vintage not yet reviewed.

Drinkability: "NYR" means the vintage has not yet been released; "drink" means most of the wines of the vintage are ready to drink; "hold" means most of the ageworthy wines have yet to fully mature; "past peak" means most of the wines are declining rather than improving.

SOURCE: *WINE SPECTATOR*