



**Beekeeper**  
**Zinfandel, Montecillo Vineyard,**  
**Sonoma County 2014**

**Grape:** Zinfandel (95% Zinfandel & 5% Petite Sirah)

**Vineyard:** Montecillo Vineyard

**Appellation:** Sonoma Valley AVA, Sonoma County

**Vintage:** 2014 - Bottled December 16, 2015.

**Winemaker:** Clay Mauritson, Ian Blackburn & Emma Kudritzki

**Alcohol:** 14.4%

**Aged:** 15 months in 100% French Oak

**Production:** 2904 Bottles (242 cases)



**Product Info & Orders**  
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## About

**About the Vintage:** 2014 may go down as the "vintage of the century" for California Zinfandel, especially to the winemakers involved in the art of crafting this unique varietal. Winemakers loved it from the get go, and even in their youth, the wines showed outstanding expressiveness. Our 2014 Zinfandel has attractive juicy character, strong color, balance and correctness, but boasts plenty of attitude, style and flesh. This was an optimal 30th harvest for the Montecillo Vineyard, a steep hillside that sits 1500 feet above the Sonoma Valley on the border of the Moon Mountain Appellation. The vineyard was planted in 1984 by Mike Lee, founder of Kenwood Vineyards, and it was an inside secret that the Cabernet off this hillside was saved for the best efforts at Kenwood. When Winemaker Clay Mauritson informed me that we had access to the Zinfandel in this beloved vineyard, I knew immediately I would make this wine with reverence to Mike Lee, a personal hero and winemaking visionary who inspired me to do great things...this one's for you, Mike!

**Winemaker Tasting Notes:** Pure and varietally correct, this juicy, rich, textural, and succulent 2014 hillside wine boasts lively and defined cherry and plum skin character, with assertive cracked pepper and spice. Beekeeper makes wines that showcase our high standards and endless efforts. Clay and Emma focus on great winemaking day to day and give me spectacular wine to blend and study. Unlike other Zinfandel producers, our goal is to showcase a vineyard's site, and our strict grape selection minimizes the jammy character that often masks the qualities of a top vineyard and a devotion to great winemaking. We use specially chosen French Oak barrels (100% French/ 15 months/ 30% new) that add refinement, texture, and nuance that integrate seamlessly by year two. Drink now, or let the wine improve for several years in the cellar and enjoy it until 2024. As usual, the virtue of patience is rewarded with properly aged Beekeeper wines. We also recommend drinking our wines just north of cellar temperature around 60 degrees.

## Awards

**92 Points- Review by Robert M. Parker, Jr. - eRobertParker.com (Mar 2016)**

The 2014 Zinfandel Montecillo Vineyard from Sonoma Valley (242 cases) is a blend of 95% Zinfandel and 5% Petite Sirah. Another big-time winner from Beekeeper, this wine shows slightly less alcohol at 14.4%, but you really can't tell the difference between this and the higher-octane models. Beautiful blackberry and black cherry is followed by spice, pepper, and plenty of body. This is a beauty – a palate-saturating, full-throttle Zinfandel to drink over the next decade.

**94 Points - Review by Doug Wilder- Purely Domestic Wine Report (April 2016)**

The nose is bright red berry with notes of sleek spice, gravel, pepper overlaid beautiful ripe cherry. The palate shows beautiful texture, weight and definition. Polished blueberry, accented with cranberry and currant.

**96 Points + 3 Puffs - Review by Connoisseurs Guide (May 2016)**

Beekeeper's string of remarkable Zinfandel successes continues unbroken with this stunning new release that takes a place at the very head of the varietal class. It is both fabulously rich and charged with great fruity energy, and, while so deep and juicy as to be riveting right now, its combination of youthful reserve and altogether exemplary balance mark it is an eminently collectable wine of enormous potential that will grow for a good decade or more.