

FEATURED WINES

2011 Judd's Hill Winery 'Burke's Blazing BBQ' Lodi Zinfandel

Judd Finkelstein is a graduate of Arizona State University's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism.

Since Cronkite once was called the most trusted man in America, you'd expect the vintner for Judd's Hill Winery to be straightforward in his approach to life. And so he is, particularly when it comes to the notion that winemaking is romantic.

"Crushing grapes is nasty, grungy, necessity-fulfilling labor," Finkelstein says. "And the sweltering weather can be brutal. Romantic? It's barely pleasant. So why do I put myself through it each year? The understanding that we have created and crafted sumptuous wines which give great pleasure to so many is the greatest satisfaction I have known."

Case in point: the 2011 "Burke's Blazing BBQ" Zinfandel, an ode to Judd's Hill hospitality manager Pat Burke's barbecuing skills. It's a perfect pairing partner for grilled meats. As a certain iconic journalist might have put it: "That's the way it is."

TASTING NOTES

Grape Composition:

100% Zinfandel

When to Drink:

Now Through 2014

Grape Source:

"Old Vine" Vineyards in
California's Lodi District

Our Tasting Panel Score:

91 Points

Aromas and Flavors:

Raspberry, Blackberry,
Plum, Earthy Star Anise
and a Hint of Currant

This silky, satisfying wine offers notes of raspberry, blackberry, plum, earthy star anise and currant.

FOOD PAIRING SUGGESTIONS: barbecued spare ribs, or smoked chicken.

WINE RE-ORDER #: 23357