

# FITZPATRICK WINERY

## Cowan Vineyard Zinfandel

This Zinfandel red wine is made at one of the first California wineries to produce wines from certified organic grapes. Brian Fitzpatrick makes wines from his own grapes and from those of several of his neighbors who grow organically. The winery also has extensive organic vegetable gardens, which are used at Fitzpatrick Lodge, located at the winery in the Sierra Foothills. At Brian's urging, Robert and Catherine Cowan converted part of their dry farmed Zinfandel vineyard to organic methods in 1990.

California's Shenandoah Valley is known for its Zinfandels, and the Cowan's traditional head-trained and spur-pruned grapes bring plenty of their luscious fruit to Fitzpatrick's cellars. Brian's winemaking style for red wines now emphasizes fresh fruit flavors and less tannins than in the past, using cold soaking before fermentation and less time on the skins. Its flavors of berries, pepper and spice will complement many meals. Grilled or roasted meats, especially lamb, pair well with Zinfandel. Italian dishes also are a treat when served with this uniquely American variety that some say originated in the land of pasta.

