



# Calstar Cellars

## **2023 Alta Zinfandel, Cardanini Vineyard**

El Dorado County

### **Vineyard Profile**

In the rolling hills of El Dorado County, where vineyards are perched at elevations ranging from 1,200 to 3,500 feet, Zinfandel grapes experience a unique blend of hot, sultry days and cool, brisk nights. This climate fosters slow, gradual ripening, allowing the grapes to develop complex flavors while maintaining balanced acidity. The 2023 vintage has benefited from abundant spring rains that rejuvenated the soil and supported a healthy canopy. The mild weather throughout the growing season, combined with a delayed harvest into the cooler days of September and October, has promised exceptional color, acidity, and aromatic development in the grapes.

### **Winemaker's Notes**

The 2023 Alta Zinfandel presents itself with a clear, deep ruby-crimson color and violet glints that reflect its vibrant character. This vintage captures the essence of a promising growing season, with the mild and extended ripening period enhancing the wine's depth and complexity.

On the nose, the 2023 Alta Zinfandel is exuberant and inviting. Aromas of dark cherry and cranberry mingle with notes of cola, thyme, and white pepper, creating a bouquet that is both lively and sophisticated. Subtle hints of dark chocolate and savory mushroom add layers of complexity, hinting at the wine's potential for aging.

The palate mirrors the aromatic profile, delivering a harmonious blend of bright fruit flavors and savory undertones. The dark cherry and cranberry notes are beautifully balanced by earthy elements of loam and bay leaf. The soft, coating tannins provide structure without overwhelming the palate, ensuring a smooth and elegant finish.

The 2023 vintage is a true expression of El Dorado's terroir, with a balance that suggests excellent aging potential. While the wine is delightful now, exhibiting vibrant fruit and lively acidity, it is expected to evolve gracefully over the next 5-7 years. Those with the patience to cellar this wine will be rewarded with an even greater complexity, as the fruit mellows and the savory notes become more pronounced.

Enjoy the 2023 Alta Zinfandel with a variety of dishes, from grilled meats and hearty stews to rich, spiced dishes. This wine's versatility and depth make it a standout choice for any occasion, showcasing the resilience and excellence of El Dorado's winemaking heritage.

### **VINEYARD**

CARDANINI VINEYARD

### **AVA**

EL DORADO COUNTY

### **HARVEST DATE**

10-1-2023

### **FINISHED PH**

3.61

### **FINISHED TA**

7.78

### **ALCOHOL**

15.1

### **OAK PROGRAM**

All American or Hungarian, 20%  
New, 20% Once Filled Balance  
Neutral

### **CASES PRODUCED**

110

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