

## Redeeming Lodi, California



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Each one of the six **Lodi Native** wines represents a unique expression of a remarkable vineyard, as well as the dynamic range that Zinfandel can have in its finest moments.



Analogies can be dangerous, but for anyone who doesn't know the more detailed geography of California, it may be easiest to describe the Lodi wine region as California's Languedoc. This massive American Viticultural Area (AVA) at the north end of California's Central Valley covers 551,000 acres (223,000 ha), and contains more than 103,000 planted acres across its six sub-AVAs. The region produces a staggering 25% of California's wine, which means that if you've ever had a \$10 bottle of wine from California, you've almost certainly tasted what the region has to offer.

But most people have never really tasted Lodi, says writer and former sommelier Randy Caparoso, who lives in Lodi and works for the Lodi Winegrape Commission. '99% of Zinfandels here are made without a care for acid, pH or sugar', admits Caparoso, 'because we can always add acid, add water, add enzymes and do other things to stabilise the wine.'