

Search millions of wines



[Log In](#) or [Sign up](#)

EXPLORING ZINFANDEL: LODI

Discovering the secret of Lodi's great Zins.

June 3, 2014 By **Gregory Dal Piaz**

Last week I began my summer time look at Zinfandel by focusing on Mendocino and lake counties, two regions that have limited presence in the Zin lovers mind. Today I'm taking a different tact and focusing instead on lodi, a veritable Zin lovers paradise.

Why you ask?

Well simply put it's a region that not only has a great climate for Zinfandel, with warm days and cool nights, not to mention lots of drying breezes, but it's also not been a secret that Lodi is a great place to grow grapes, and in particular Zinfandel grapes. That means plenty of old vine vineyards. Like ~~tons of them~~. Like stand in some places and that's all you'll see. Incredible success

The other secret is the wind flowing in like clockwork that have been mentioned that, well because mechanical harvesters are conscientious and move quickly, and often. And it gets the grapes fermenting or sitting



Simply put it's a region that not only has a great climate for Zinfandel, with warm days and cool nights, not to mention lots of drying breezes, but it's also not been a secret that **Lodi** is a great place to grow grapes, and in particular Zinfandel grapes.

But you know what? That really doesn't matter much with the wines I'm talking about because the wines I'm talking about are mostly from gnarly old head pruned vines. You're not going to get a mechanical harvester through those vines. gentle hands and a good eye are in high demand when the fruit from these vines needs to be brought in. And what stunning fruit it can be. Hundred year old vines have something special about them. Their deep roots and naturally low yields seem to be able to endure to vagaries of the growing season much more smoothly than younger vines. They tend to produce more balanced wines as well, often a bit lower in fruit and alcohol but with more nuance and detail on the palate.

Not all Lodi Zinfandel is lime this of course, not even all old vine Zin from lodi, because Lodi does in fact have terroir. We like to think that terror is reserved from old slopes and craggy vineyards but even here in Lodi terroir is on grand display. Consider if you will the style difference that one finds in Eastside Lodi versus Westside Lodi wines. The east side has a lower water table, and sits further from the Delta breezes. Berry size tends to be smaller and the concentration of fruit in those berries particularly intense.