

Hawk Wakawaka Wine Reviews

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The Lodi Native Zinfandel Project

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Propelled by an idea of Randy Caparoso, six **Lodi** winemakers have produced and released the **Lodi Native Project**, a collection of six different Zinfandel wines made from six separate heritage vineyards of Lodi's Mokelumne River AVA. The winemakers include Chad Joseph of Maley Brothers Vineyards, Layne Montgomery of m2 wines, Michael McCay of McCay Cellars, Stuart Spencer of St Amant Winery, Ryan Sherman of Fields Family Vineyards & Winery, and Tim Holdener of Macchia Wines.

What defines the collection rests in technique. The wines are individually made using only ambient yeast fermentation without the addition of any without alcohol reductive techniques avoiding fining, or filtering. The wines, in other words, are produced with maximum concentration. The goal is to offer the best quality old vine material from the vineyards themselves.

The Wealth of Lodi Vineyards

Lodi offers some of the highest concentration of quality old vine material in the state of California. As vines age through vintages, they adapt their growing patterns to the conditions of their site, becoming more responsive to the intersection of factors—soil type, water availability, drainage, mineral content, sun, wind, and humidity exposure, etc—unique to their environment. The result yields fruit expressive through aroma, flavor, structure (and even color and size) of its peculiar vineyard.

Younger vines, on the other hand, grow instead with the vigor of their variety. Not yet adapted to the demands of their vineyard location, younger



Lodi Native Winemakers (clockwise from left): Layne Montgomery, Stuart Spencer, Ryan Sherman, Michael McCay, Tim Holdener, Chad Joseph. Photo courtesy of Randy Caparoso.

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Lodi Native