

GOLD MEDAL WINE CLUB'S  
Gold Series Selection



# Gold Plus!

## Summit Lake Vineyards & Winery 2009 Estate Bottled Zinfandel Napa Valley

Owner Bob Brakesman readily admits his beloved Summit Lake Vineyards is one of Napa Valley's best locations, and a little slice of paradise. Located high above the valley floor at around 2,000-foot elevation, the 20-acre site is not far from the quaint town of Angwin on Napa Valley's eastern shoulder. Brakesman purchased the property shortly before Christmas in 1971 and Summit Lake Vineyards has now been in existence for close to fifty years.

Fast forward to the present and Summit Lake Vineyards is alive and very, very well. From its first releases in 1978, the smallish winery has continued to produce award-winning wines in the red varietal categories. Summit Lake Vineyards was one of the first Napa wineries to produce Zinfandel from pre-prohibition vines Brakesman discovered when first cleaning up the property. He got to know Joe Swan who was a true pioneer of Old Vine Zinfandel in the area, followed his lead, and the rest is history. The modern Summit Lake Vineyards produces between 1,800 and 2,000 cases annually, and expects to reach around 2,500 cases in another year or two. Summit Lake Vineyards' Zinfandel continues to be one of the most successful wines offered from the Napa Valley winery.

Summit Lake Vineyards and Winery is totally family-oriented with Brakesman's daughter Heather Griffin serving as the entity's general manager, and his son Brian serving as the winemaker. Brian's past stints at both Domain Chandon Winery and Beringer Vineyards helped prepare him for his current role. Heather's husband, Mark Griffin, is another key ingredient. While managing vineyards at the iconic Harlan Estate and other top vineyard properties, he also oversees the vines at Summit Lake Vineyards. Everyone works very hard and that continues to make the team a really tight knit family.

Summit Lake Vineyards has been awarded numerous medals and accolades during its existence, which is no small feat when you consider the number and facilities of many of its Napa competitors. We hope you enjoy getting to know this well-established and very successful small family winery in Napa Valley. Cheers!

### Accolades & Tasting Notes

**92 POINTS + GOLD MEDAL**

- Beverage Testing Institute

The Summit Lake Vineyards 2009 Estate Bottled Zinfandel comes from the winery's estate vineyards in eastern Napa Valley. Deep garnet in color, the 2009 Zinfandel has complex aromas of black raspberry, dried cherries, coconut, and bread pudding. On the palate, this wine is silky and full-bodied with rich flavors of blackberry, baking spices, minerals, and clove. Ample tannins support the peppery, smooth finish. Aged in oak. 100% Zinfandel. Enjoy now until 2019.

**Retail Price at the Winery: ~~\$30.00~~ /bottle**

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