



**94 points - Peter Franus 2008 Brandlin Vineyard Zinfandel
YEAR'S BEST ZINFANDEL (Best Buy)**

"Peter Franus has been making zinfandel from the old head-pruned vines at Brandlin Vineyard since 1991. The vines date to the 1920's, on an east-facing hillside at 1,200 feet. In 2008, the fruit went crazy spicy-a blast of Middle Eastern-Indian-Asian-cardamom-fenu-greek-woodland Mount Veeder. That intensity rides on formidable blueberry ripeness, combining in a tart, fresh, satisfying zin. Decanted, it's the kind of wine that could fill the room with its remarkable scent, its flavors destined for roast saddle of venison."

92 points - Peter Franus 2006 Napa Valley Red Wine

"This wine's beautiful texture carries ample tannins that are gentle to the touch. It's smooth and chocolate rich, while the fruit has enough substance to rise out of the oak tones, creating flavors of smoky tobacco and fruity black mushrooms. It's a sleek red to enjoy with rare filet mignon."

92 points - Peter Franus 2007 Brandlin Vineyard Zinfandel

"This bold red grows at 1,200 ft on dry farmed, head-pruned vines planted in the 1920's. The eastern exposure helps keep the fruit fresh as it matures on the vine a combination of zinfandel (92%) with charbono, mouvedere, and carignon. In 2007, the wine's intensity and power is balanced by its freshness and fierce mountain tannin. The red fruit is just as fierce, a type of raspberry and strawberry that doesn't grow on the valley floor. Its long and kinetic, assessable now, but built to age."