DOMAINE DE LA TERRE ROUGE EASTON ZINFANDEL 'OLD VINE' RINALDI VINEYARD, FIDDLETOWN

100% Zinfandel from the Rinaldi Vineyard. Thick brambly blackberry fruit with pepper, anise, clove and other exotic spices. Elegant. Fat and mouth filling, with great persistence on the palate.

Terre Rouge means "Red Earth." This vermillion-colored soil is one of the hallmarks of the region. The vineyards are in soils that are largely granite and volcanic-based. High elevation sites up to 3200' contribute to the complexity of the wine, made from grapes that grow on the beautiful, rolling mountain with the classic, vermilion-colored Amador County granite soil. These old vines barely provide a crop each year—the vineyard is about as old as they come in California, with vines dating to the original planting in 1865. The vineyard is farmed with simplicity: pruning, plowing, and picking at the perfect time as determined by the winemaker. Aged in French oak barrels.

Terre Rouge and Easton Wines is located on the West Slope of the Sierra Nevada in Amador County's Shenandoah Valley. An artisan winery established in 1986 by Bill Easton and Jane O'Riordan, they make 30 different wines. Most of them very are made in very small lots, and each is unique and site-specific, with a sense of place all their own. The Terre Rouge portfolio is composed of wines made from Rhône varietals grown in the rugged and varying terroirs of the region. Winemaker Bill Easton puts his family name, Easton, on their non-Rhône varietal wines. Easton wines are crafted from varietals that have traditionally worked the best in Amador County and the Sierra Foothills: ancient and old-vine Zinfandel, Barbera, Cabernet Sauvignon and Sauvignon Blanc. Under the Easton label they also bottle small selections of varietals new to the Sierra Foothills: Pinot Noir and Cabernet Franc. At Terre Rouge and Easton they strive to manage their business and vineyards with as little impact on the environment as possible. The vineyards are farmed sustainably; they mow and plow and don't use chemicals. The style of their red wines emphasizes deep color, balanced flavors, full middle palate, and a long finish, with power and finesse. They gain complexity with age. Their whites are aromatic and flavorful, with nice texture and balanced acidity. The whites also display an amazing mineral sense that is derived from the stony mountain soils. The winery's goal for the last 25 years has always been to make the finest wines possible that can be placed on a table with the best wines of the word.

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Tasting Note:

EASTON

ZINFANDEL

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Shelf Talker:

