

WINE OF THE WEEK: Four Vines 2009 Old Vine Cuvee California Zinfandel

By PEG MELNIK

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Zinfandel, in its most popular incarnation, is a peacock — flamboyant with spice.

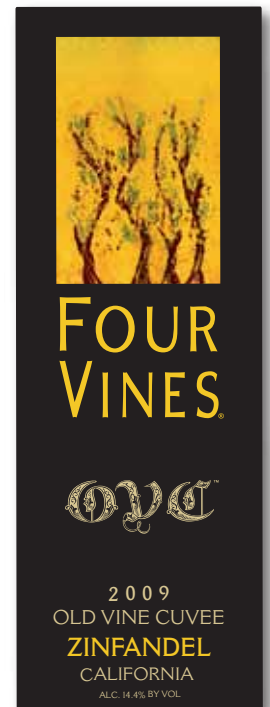
With an eye to the ZAP, or Zinfandel Advocates & Producers, tasting this weekend, the Press Democrat decided check some of the zins that will be poured.

“Zin has the ability to show spices that are not likely to be present in burgundy and bordeaux varietals,” said Alex Cose, who oversees the production of Four Vines. “The fruit characteristics lean toward the bramble berry, spicy side.”

Cose is the winemaker behind our wine-of-the-week winner — the Four Vines, 2009 Old Vine Cuvee California Zinfandel at \$12.

While there were a handful of wines that outscored the Four Vines, it was a stand-out for its price point.

Our house style is a more fruit-forward, fresher style,” Cose said. “We do this so



“Dried raspberry and dried cherry flavors, with notes of savory herb and a hint of plum sauce”

Varietal: ZINFANDEL
Appellation: PASO ROBLES
Alcohol: 14.4%
pH: 3.60
Total Acid: 0.55

the wine is far more likely to work with food. The most popular style seems to be the overripe, over-the-top, high-alcohol wines. Our wines are not shy in alcohol, but we make sure the wines never have ‘prune’ characters.”

