

**Marr Cellars****2004 Old Vine Zinfandel, Mattern Ranch  
(Mendocino County)**

Mattern Ranch, the source of old vine Zinfandel for this wine, is located southeast of Ukiah, on the east side of the Russian River, near Talmadge, California. Vines were planted around 1930 and more than qualify for the "old vine" distinction. The well-drained vineyard site, sloping to the west, is planted to head-pruned Zinfandel vines, which comprise 95 percent of the blend. The balance is five percent Petite Sirah.

Aged in a mix of 28.5 percent new French and American oak cooperage, the wine is simultaneously rich and full-bodied but with perceptible finesse and elegance. Aromas of toasty oak and vanilla linger over notes of black cherries, ripe black plums and black raspberries. Varietal distinction, framed by mellow and round tannins, is achieved in a panoply of dark fruit flavors, finishing with peppery spice and full, long and complex harmony.

Keep food matches simple yet moderately spicy, such as thin crust pizza with Italian sausage, grilled spicy Italian sausage with fennel or pasta kicked up with red pepper flakes in the sauce. Or just grill a burger and enjoy.

Reviewed October 31, 2007 by [Eleanor & Ray Heald](#).

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**THE WINE**

**Winery:** [Marr Cellars](#)

**Vineyard:** Mattern Ranch

**Vintage:** 2004

**Wine:** Old Vine Zinfandel

**Appellation:** [Mendocino County](#)

**Grape:** Zinfandel

**Price:** \$20.00

**THE REVIEWER****Eleanor & Ray Heald**

The Healds have been writing about wine since 1978 and have focused on appellation significance in many of their world beat writings. They value recognizing site personality (*terroir*) within an appellation's wines. They praise balance and elegance in wines styled to pair well with food and eschew over-extraction, high alcohol and heavy-handed oak. "Delicious" is their favorite descriptor for a great, well-made wine.