

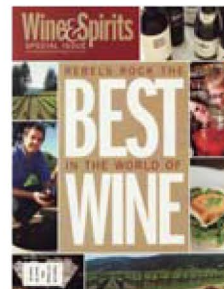
Best New Wineries: BELLA VINEYARDS



SCOTT ADAMS

Scott and Lynn Adams started Bella Vineyards in 1999. At the time, the Adams were new to the wine business, and wineries like Ravenswood were having great success with the fruit from their old zinfandel vineyards. Lily Hill and Big River Ranch are particularly old (85 and 110 years old, respectively) and yield berries of highly concentrated flavor and intensity.

Initially, the Adams hired Mike Dashe as their consultant; Joe Healy later joined the team in 2001. Together, they craft zinfandels of dazzling intensity from these gnarly old vines. They've also managed to capture the differences between the two sites: Lily Hill shows the bright side of Dry Creek Valley zin, where high violet notes are balanced with firm acidity. Wines from the Big River, by contrast, are rounder, with notes of sweet plums and blackberries checked by a dark, savory earthiness. Both wines are stellar examples of old-vine California zin. —WOLFGANG WEBER



RECENT TOP WINES:

- 2005 Alexander Valley Two Patch zinfandel | \$35
- 2004 Dry Creek Valley Lily Hill Estate zinfandel | \$36
- 2004 Alexander Valley Big River Ranch zinfandel | \$38

FOUNDED: 1999

WINEMAKER: Joe Healy and Scott Adams

ACRES OWNED: 80

ANNUAL PRODUCTION: 7,000 cases

OWNERS: Scott and Lynn Adams

LOCATION: Healdsburg, CA

WEBSITE: bellawinery.com

