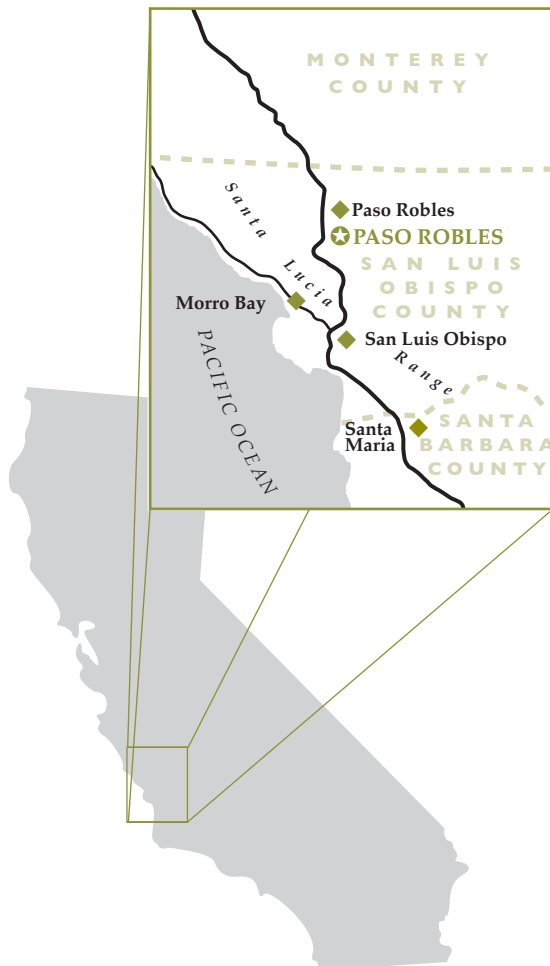


RIDGE 2007

CALIFORNIA ZINFANDEL PASO ROBLES

2007 Zinfandel, Paso Robles, bottled August 2008
After two wet winters, 2007 was considerably drier; these struggling eighty-five-year-old vines set a small crop. Summer heat accentuated water stress, and we harvested in late August to avoid over-ripening. The clusters—small, and with tiny berries—were destemmed and crushed as separate parcels to submerged-cap tanks for natural-yeast fermentation. This gentle approach produced balanced tannins and moderate color. We pressed on day six, and included press fractions for depth of color and added richness. The uninoculated secondary, slow to start, finished quickly, allowing us to put the lots to barrel by year's end. At spring rack, when clear wine is separated from the sediment, we selected four of the five, and bottled early to maintain the balance of fresh fruit and oak. Enjoyable now, this appealing Paso Robles will be at its best over the next four to five years. EB (6/08)

100% ZINFANDEL
14.5% alcohol by volume



History

Dusi Ranch is the only Ridge vineyard in the Central Coast Viticultural Area. It is planted entirely to zinfandel, unusual in a vineyard more than eighty years old. Purchased by Sylvester and Catarina Dusi in 1924, the property has been farmed since the 1940s by their son Benito, the present owner.

Vintage

Harvest Dates 25 August - 14 September

Grapes Average Brix 24.7°

Fermentation 100% natural primary and secondary
63% submerged cap
Length of maceration nine days.

Agging 100% air-dried american oak barrels (9% new, 41% one and two years, 50% three years old)

Time in Barrel Ten months

Vineyard

First RIDGE Paso Robles 1967

Location Three miles south of Paso Robles on the east side of Highway 101

Soils Rocky and gravelly with areas of light soil

Vines Zinfandel, 40 acres, planted 1922.

Training Head trained (no trellis), spur pruned.

Yields 1.5 to 2.0 tons per acre

Growing Season

Rainfall Ten inches (below average)

Bloom Mid-May

Weather Dry and hot spring, dry summer and fall.