

RIDGE 2008

CALIFORNIA

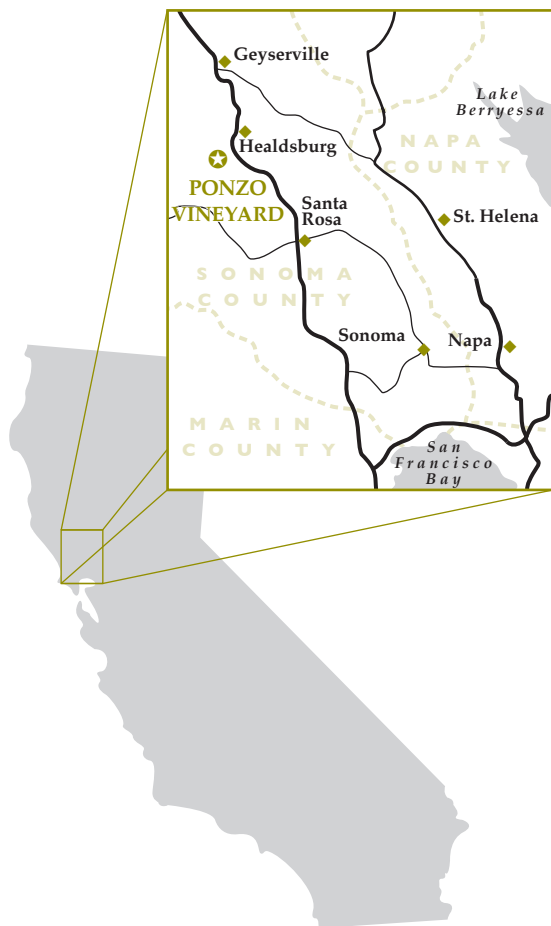
ZINFANDEL

PONZO

VINEYARD

2008 Zinfandel Ponzo Vineyard, bottled Jan 2010
Bob Ponzo's vineyard lies just south of the town of Healdsburg in the Russian River Valley. Cool spring weather—typical of this region—delayed budbreak, but flowering and fruit set were complete by early June, and a warm summer ripened the grapes fully by early September. We harvested the Old Vine parcel (a traditional field blend of zinfandel and petite sirah) and the Triangle on September 5, and finished picking the Back Block September 18. The grapes all fermented on their natural yeasts for twelve days, on average. After natural malolactic, we racked the new wine to american oak barrels, fifteen percent of which were new. Rich and full-bodied, the 2008 Ponzo is nonetheless elegant—a zinfandel to be enjoyed over the next five to seven years. JO (11/09)

98% ZINFANDEL, 2% PETITE SIRAH
15.1% alcohol by volume



History

Bob Ponzo has farmed these grapes for us in the Russian River Valley since 1999. Bob's vineyard, on deep gravelly loam soils four and a half miles south of Lytton Springs, provides all of the grapes for this zinfandel. The Russian River Valley's cooler microclimate ripens this fruit shortly after Lytton Springs and Geyserville. Small amounts of petite sirah are interplanted with zinfandel in the oldest block.

Vintage

- Harvest Dates** 5 and 18 September
Grapes Average Brix 25.6°
Fermentation No inoculation—natural primary and secondary; rapid color and tannin extraction. Pressed at twelve days.
Barrels 100% air-dried american oak barrels (15% new, 35% one to two years old, 50% three and four years old)
Aging Twelve months in barrel

Vineyard

- First RIDGE Ponzo** 2002
Location Russian River Valley, south of Healdsburg on Old Redwood Highway in Sonoma County.
Soils Deep, gravelly loam.
Vines Mixed zinfandel, petite sirah, planted c. 1952, 4.0 acres (old vines).
Zinfandel planted 1992, 3.0 acres (Triangle).
Zinfandel planted 1999, 5.0 acres (Back Block).
Training Majority head trained (no trellis), spur pruned; Back Block cordon trained.
Yields Two to three tons per acre

Growing Season

- Rainfall** Thirty inches (below normal)
Bloom Early May (normal)
Weather Dry spring with a warm dry summer, and no sustained heat spells.