

# RIDGE 2006

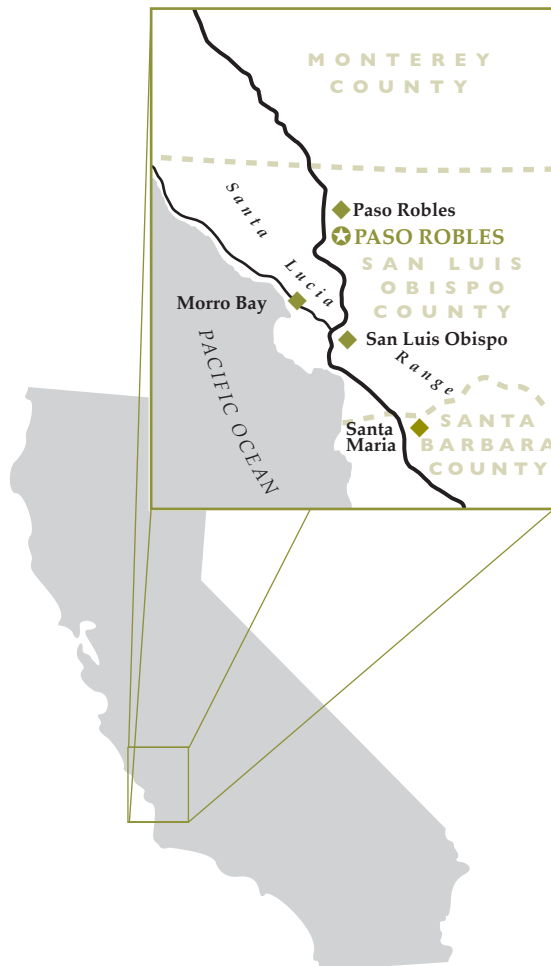
## CALIFORNIA ZINFANDEL PASO ROBLES

### 2006 Zinfandel, Paso Robles, bottled January 2008

The eighty-year-old vines on Benito Dusi's ranch set a full crop, with yields equaling those of 2005. Above-average summer temperatures quickly advanced the growing season, but cooling ocean breezes slowed the process, and we harvested two weeks later than usual. Natural yeasts carried out primary fermentation in small tanks, which were pumped over twice daily. An uninoculated malolactic fermentation finished rapidly, allowing us to assemble the selected parcels in November. The blend was racked to air-dried american oak barrels — a quarter new, a very few one to two years old, and the balance four years old. Careful racking off the sediment brought brilliant clarity by the ninth month. This vineyard's forward fruit and soft tannins have often dictated early bottling. In this vintage, however, our blind tastings confirmed the need for a full thirteen months of barrel age. Rich fruit and the spice of barrel aging are beautifully balanced in this accessible zinfandel. It will be at its best over the next five years. EB (11/07)

100% ZINFANDEL

14.6% alcohol by volume



### History

Dusi Ranch is our only grape source south of the Monte Bello estate in the Santa Cruz Mountains. 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** 9 September - 2 October

**Grapes** Average Brix 24.9°

**Fermentation** Natural primary and secondary (63% submerged cap), maceration nine days.

**Aging** 100% air-dried american oak barrels (24% new, 14% one and two years old, 62% four years old)

**Time in Barrel** Thirteen 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** Twenty-four inches (above average)

**Bloom** Mid-May

**Weather** Wet spring; warm, dry summer and fall.