
RIDGE 2006

CALIFORNIA

ZINFANDEL

CABOOSE

*bottled March 2008, 49 barrels produced
96% zinfandel, 4% petite sirah
bottle cost: \$28, invoice will not be sent.*

HISTORY

In the 1890s, the Nervo family purchased a ranch in Geyserville Township; it included ten acres of hillside vineyards. They planted more vines, and on the Northwestern Pacific's main line at the base of the property, built a square, two-story stone winery which they named Venezia, after their home region. Years later, Ed Nervo—who grew up at the Nervo whistle stop, and had fallen in love with all things pertaining to railroads—began to collect rail cars. Somehow, he managed to haul a caboose up the steep hillside to the middle of the vineyard. This wine is named in his honor.

VINEYARD

First Ridge Caboose 2002

Location Southern end of Geyserville Township (Sonoma County) on the steep hills overlooking Alexander Valley from the west.

Soils Gray clay loam with weathered rock.

Vines Zinfandel, five acres, planted 1990.

Training Head trained, spur pruned.

Yield 2 - 3 tons per acre

GROWING SEASON

Rainfall Fifty-five inches

Bloom Mid-May

Weather Wet spring; warm, dry summer, with rain at the end of harvest.

VINTAGE

Harvest Date 26 September

Grapes Average brix 25.7°

Fermentation No inoculation. Natural primary and secondary; pressed at seven days.

Barrels 100% air-dried american oak barrels (25% new, 25% one and two years old 50% three, four, five and seven years old).

Aging Fifteen months in barrel