

# RIDGE 2013

# PASO ROBLES

# ZINFANDEL

100% ZINFANDEL BENITO DUSI RANCH  
PASO ROBLES 14.8% ALCOHOL BY VOLUME

## HISTORY

Benito Dusi's Ranch is the only vineyard in the Central Coast Viticultural Area from which we source grapes. Our Monte Bello vineyards are in the Santa Cruz Mountains Viticultural Area which is not a part of the Central Coast. The 1967 vintage was our first wine from the Dusi Ranch. It was planted to zinfandel in 1922 which is unusual because Prohibition had started two years earlier. Purchased by Sylvester and Catarina Dusi in 1924, the property has been farmed since the 1940s by their son Benito, the owner.

FIRST RIDGE PASO ROBLES: 1967

## GROWING SEASON

Rainfall: 7 inches (half of normal)

Bloom: Early-May

Weather: Dry winter, summer and fall. Warm temperatures.

## VINTAGE

Harvest Dates: 3 September - 8 October

Grapes: Average Brix 24.7°

Fermentation: 100% natural primary and secondary fermentation; 37% submerged cap and 63% floating cap; pressed at ten days.

Barrels: 100% air-dried american oak barrels 17% new, 51% one and two years old, 32% three, four and five years old).

Aging: Eleven months in barrel

## WINEMAKING

Benito Dusi Vineyard grapes, hand harvested; destemmed and crushed; fermented on the native yeasts, followed by full malolactic on the naturally occurring bacteria; oak from barrel aging; minimum effective sulfur for this wine (35ppm at crush, 166ppm over the course of aging). Pad filtered at bottling. In keeping with our philosophy of minimal intervention, this is the sum of our actions.

*2013 Zinfandel, Paso Robles, bottled 12/14*  
This vineyard is typically hot and dry in summer—a challenge to grape-growing, especially in 2013's drought. Yet, unexpectedly, the vines set the largest crop in eight years. That slowed ripening, intensifying flavors. The first grapes were submerged-cap fermented. Remaining parcels, picked a month later, fermented with a floating cap. When malolactic fermentations finished, we combined the lots, by taste, for this wonderfully approachable zinfandel, which shows warm-region fruit, yet maintains refreshing acidity. It will be at its best over the next five to six years.  
EB (8/14)



Benito Dusi's Vineyard is located three miles south of Paso Robles on the east side of Highway 101.

Soils: Rocky and gravelly, with areas of light soil.

Age of Vines: Zinfandel, 40 acres, ninety-one, years old, planted in 1922.

Training: Head trained (no trellis), spur pruned.

Yields: 1.5 - 2.0 tons per acre



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