

# RIDGE 2013

## PONZO

## ZINFANDEL

93% ZINFANDEL, 7% PETITE SIRAH  
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY 14.8% 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 the fruit for this zinfandel. The Russian River Valley's cooler microclimate ripens the grapes shortly after Lytton Springs and Geyserville. Small amounts of petite sirah are interplanted with zinfandel in the oldest block.

FIRST RIDGE PONZO: 2002

### GROWING SEASON

Rainfall: Twenty-four to thirty inches (below average)

Bloom: Mid-May

Weather: Warm spring and early summer followed by cooler weather that slowed ripening.

### VINTAGE

Harvest Dates: 1 October and 16 October

Grapes: Average Brix 25.5°

Fermentation: Grapes destemmed and crushed, pumped over a floating cap and pressed at eight days.

Barrels: 100% air-dried american oak barrels (25% new, 40% one and two years old, 35% three and four years old)

Aging: Twelve months in barrel

### WINEMAKING

Hand harvested, Bob Ponzo vineyard grapes; destemmed and crushed; fermented on the native yeasts, followed by full malolactic on the naturally occurring bacteria; 1.6% water addition; oak from barrel aging; minimum effective sulfur for this wine (35 ppm at crush, 159 ppm 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, Ponzo Vineyard, bottled 12/14*  
After a dry winter, bud-break came early at this Russian River Valley vineyard. The resulting long season extended hang time, and provided superb flavor. We picked Old Vine block on October 8, and returned October 11 for Front and Back blocks. Following fermentation, we chose the eighty-five-year-old Old Vine block—a mix of zinfandel and a small amount of petite sirah—and the Front block, for their aromatics and dark fruit. Enjoyable now, this cool-climate zinfandel will be at its best over the next four to five years. JO (9/14)



Ponzo Vineyard is located in Russian River Valley, south of Healdsburg on Old Redwood Highway.

Soils: Deep, gravelly loam.

Vines: Mixed zinfandel and petite sirah, planted c. 1952, 4.0 acres (older 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

**RIDGE**  
VINEYARDS

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17100 Monte Bello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014  
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