

RIDGE 2004

CALIFORNIA

GEYSERVILLE®

2004 Geyserville Vineyard, bottled April 2006

A warm spring, mild summer, and lack of spring rain brought ripeness early at Geyserville—and throughout Sonoma County. Small clusters of small berries reduced tonnage, but produced great intensity and unusually rapid extraction of color and tannin. Full, daily circulation over the cap was quickly reduced, to achieve a sensuous structure. The twenty-six vineyard parcels provided thirty-eight separate lots; all fermented on their natural yeasts. As natural malolactic finished, we blind-tasted to select the finest and most typical of the vineyard for this wine. As usual, both old carignane blocks were included, as well as a limited amount of petite sirah. After ten months of barrel aging, we added some very rich, spicy zinfandel from a parcel initially held out. The wine spent a full eighteen months in barrel, roughly four more than is customary, bringing the tannins and firm acid into balance. This superb, opulent Geyserville will be enjoyable within a year, and develop fully over the next ten. EB/PD (2/06)

75% ZINFANDEL, 18% CARIGNANE,
7% PETITE SIRAH

14.9% alcohol by volume



History

Ridge has made the Geyserville as a single-site zinfandel in every year since 1966. The grapes are grown on a defined stretch of gravelly soil approximately one-and-a-quarter mile long, which now includes three adjoining vineyards.

Vintage

Harvest Dates 20 August - 3 September

Grapes Average brix 26.9°

Fermentation Natural primary and secondary; limited use of both submerged cap and pump-overs. Pressed at twelve days.

Aging 100% air-dried american oak barrels (27% new, 40% one year old, 33% three to six years old)

Time in Barrel Eighteen months

Vineyard

First RIDGE Geyserville 1966

Location Western edge of Alexander Valley, Sonoma County.

Soils Gravelly loam

Age of Vines Sixty percent 40 years or older; oldest, 120 years.

Training Head trained (no trellis), spur pruned.

Yields One to three tons per acre

Growing Season

Rainfall Less than forty inches (below normal)

Bloom Early May (normal)

Weather Dry winter, warm spring and summer.