

RIDGE 2005

CALIFORNIA

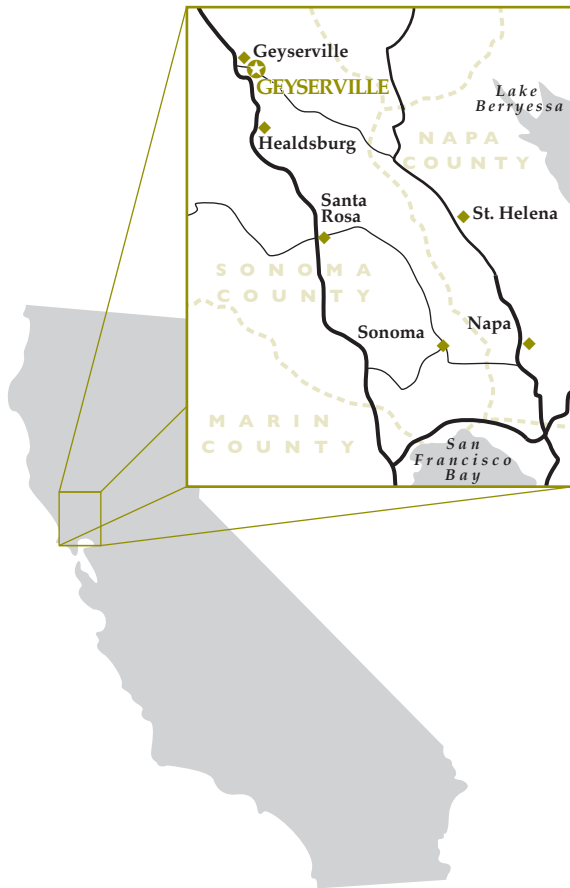
GEYSERVILLE®

GEYSERVILLE
40th
VINTAGE

2005 Geyserville Vineyard, bottled February 2007

Cool, rainy weather in early spring delayed budbreak, but clear skies by late March brought flowering and a good set by mid-May. Above-average temperatures throughout the summer moved ripening along, and we started to sample for flavor in late August. Mild fall weather with occasional fog slowed maturation while allowing color and flavor to deepen. Harvesting began in mid-September and extended over twenty days as each of the thirty-three parcels ripened fully. The separate lots fermented on their natural yeasts, and were pressed at dryness (average seven days); once natural malolactic was underway, we began assembling the finest and most characteristic. Because of the zinfandel's unusually firm structure, we included very little petite sirah. As in most years, the 120-year-old carignane was an elegant, vibrant addition. This outstanding vintage aged fourteen months in air-dried american oak. Rich primary fruit gives the wine immediate appeal; it will develop greater complexity over the next ten years. EB/PD (12/06)

77% ZINFANDEL, 17% CARIGNANE,
6% PETITE SIRAH
14.6% alcohol by volume



History

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

Vintage

Harvest Dates 16 September - 5 October

Grapes Average brix 25.3°

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

Aging 100% air-dried american oak barrels (20% new, 8% one year old, 72% two to six years old)

Time in Barrel Fourteen 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 More than sixty inches (above average); late spring/early summer rains

Bloom Early May (normal); set a very full crop.

Weather Cool, wet spring and warm, dry summer, with no intense heat at harvest.