

# RIDGE 2005

## CALIFORNIA

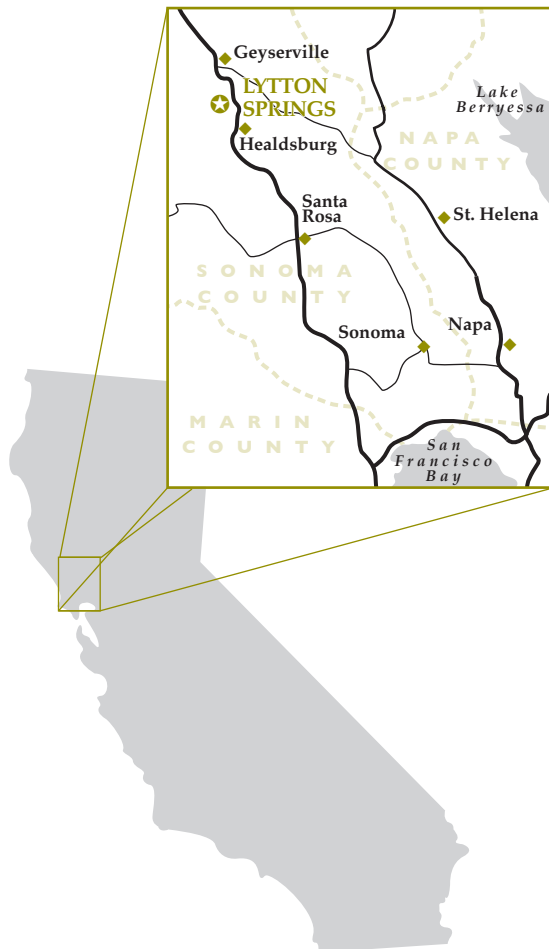
## LYTTON SPRINGS®

### 05 Lytton Springs Vineyard, bottled Jan 07

The 2005 growing season was delayed by sustained spring rains and cool temperatures. Such conditions can interfere with flowering and fruit formation, but to our surprise the vines set a record crop. To assure intensity, we dropped up to half the clusters on the young vines. Still, reminiscent of 1997, every fermentor was soon filled. Unseasonably cool weather slowed the start of natural-yeast fermentations; the resulting cold soak maximized the deep color. The thirty-one separate parcels completed a natural malolactic and were racked to air-dried american oak barrels. In assemblage, a third of the wine (some from young vines, some from vines picked overripe) was held out. This elegant, full-bodied wine, with its firm tannins and intense, complex fruit, is among the finest of recent vintages. Enjoyable now, it will develop further over the next ten years. JO/PD/EB (12/06)

77% ZINFANDEL, 17% PETITE SIRAH,  
6% CARRIGNANE

14.4% alcohol by volume



### History

In 1972, Ridge made its first Lytton Springs from vines planted on the eastern half of the historic vineyard at the turn of the century, and purchased both the eastern and western portions of the vineyard in the early 1990s. (In the 1870s, under "Captain" William Lytton's ownership, the two were part of one property; spelling evolved into "Lytton" by 1903.) The vineyard is planted to zinfandel and its principal complementary varieties: petite sirah, carignane, a small amount of mataro (mourvèdre) and grenache.

### Vintage

**Harvest Dates** 5 September - 7 October

**Grapes** Average brix 25.1°

**Fermentation** No inoculation; natural primary and secondary. Pressed at eight days.

**Aging** 100% air-dried american oak barrels (20% new, 25% one and two years, 55% three to five year old)

**Time in Barrel** Twelve months

### Vineyard

**First RIDGE Lytton Springs** 1972

**Location** The bench and hills separating Dry Creek and Alexander Valleys, just north of Healdsburg, Sonoma County.

**Soils** Varied, with a predominance of gravelly clay; gravelly clay loam on hillsides.

**Vines** Lytton East: 100-plus-year-old zinfandel, grenache, petite sirah, carignane (42 acres)  
Lytton West: zinfandel, and small amounts of carignane, planted 1953 (33 acres); zinfandel, petite sirah, mataro, planted 1989 to 1998 (54 acres).

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

**Yields** 1.5 to 3 tons per acre

### Growing Season

**Rainfall** Sixty inches (above average)

**Bloom** Late May

**Weather** Wet winter and spring with a long growing season