

RIDGE 2007

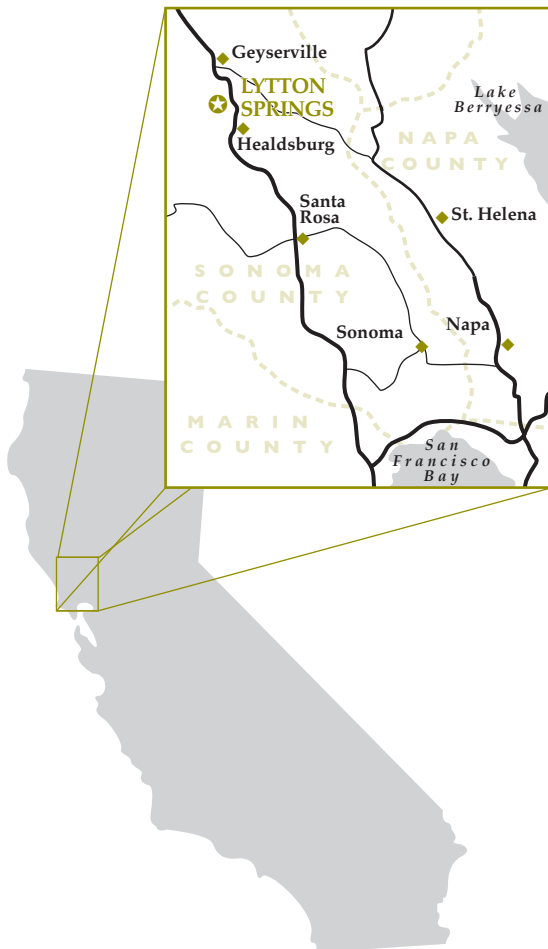
CALIFORNIA LYTTON SPRINGS®

07 Lytton Springs Vineyard, bottled March 09

After a dry winter and spring, budbreak came early. Despite the lack of spring rain, temperate summer weather mitigated vine stress and created ideal ripening conditions. At veraison, we dropped a quarter of the young zinfandel. A warm August ripened the fruit earlier than expected, and we harvested the thirty-four parcels as flavors developed fully, fermenting each separately on its natural yeasts. Color and tannin extracted easily, reducing maceration time to seven days, on average. After malolactic, we chose twenty-one lots for this year's wine. Aged for fifteen months in air-dried american oak, this classic Lytton Springs is remarkable for its richness, balance, and elegant texture. It will soften and gain complexity over the next ten years. JO (11/08)

71% ZINFANDEL, 22% PETITE SIRAH,
7% CARIGNANE

14.4% alcohol by volume



History

In 1972, Ridge made its first Lytton Springs from vines planted on the eastern half of the 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 Litton'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 varietals.

Vintage

Harvest Dates 26 August - 6 September

Grapes Average Brix 26.3°

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

Aging 100% air-dried american oak barrels (21% new; 48% one, two and three years old; 31% four and five years old).

Time in Barrel Fifteen 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 3.0 tons per acre

Growing Season

Rainfall Thirty-five inches (below average)

Bloom Mid-May

Weather Dry spring and warm, dry summer, with no sustained heat spells.