

RIDGE 2008

CALIFORNIA

GEYSERVILLE®

2008 Geyserville Vineyard, bottled January 2010
Two consecutive years of limited rainfall challenged the growing season, but because yields were low, the vines escaped serious water stress. Sampling began in mid-August, showing ripeness on track for a month-long September harvest. In tank, color and tannin extraction was unusually rapid, as were uninoculated primary fermentations. We reduced pump-overs and pressed early, avoiding harsher tannins. Zinfandel and carignane showed exceptional quality, and form the core of the blend. (Wines from the petite sirah parcels were too tannic; the six percent included comes from a field-blend.) Natural secondary fermentation finished quickly, and we could rack to barrel a month ahead of schedule. Twenty percent new oak adds exotic spice. Superb concentration and firm acid will allow this fine zinfandel to develop over the next ten to fifteen years. EB (11/09)

72% ZINFANDEL, 20% CARIGNANE,
18% PETITE SIRAH, 2% MATARO

14.8% 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 23 August - 1 October

Grapes Average Brix 25.3°

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

Barrel 100% air-dried american oak barrels (20% new, 31% one to two years old, 49% four to five years old.)

Aging Fourteen months in barrel

Vineyard

First RIDGE

Geyserville 1966

Location Western edge of Alexander Valley, Sonoma County.

Soils Gravelly loam

Age of Vines Youngest 10 years; oldest over 120 years; sixty percent 40 years or older.

Training Head trained (no trellis), spur pruned.

Yields One to three tons per acre

Growing Season

Rainfall Below average at less than 35 inches, with a very dry spring.

Bloom Early May, that then set a crop of average size.

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