

RIDGE 2008

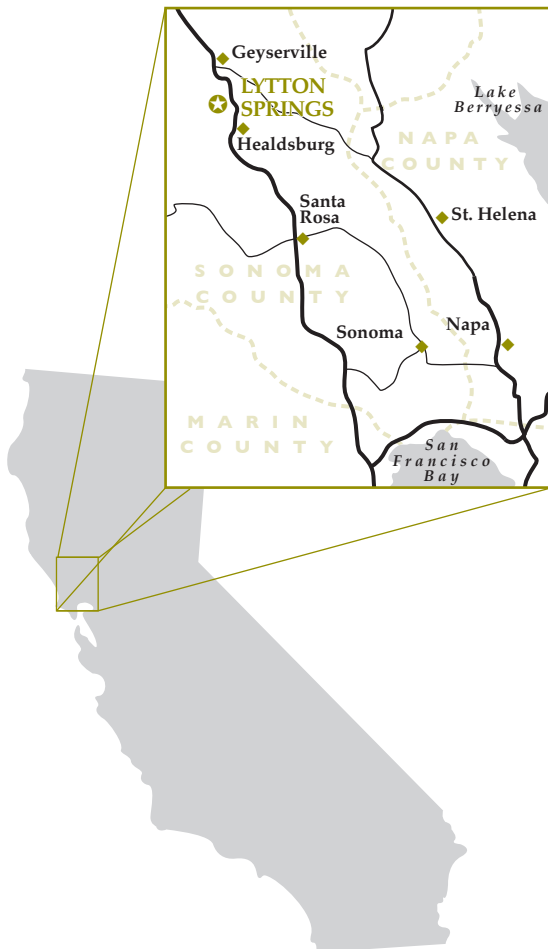
CALIFORNIA LYTTON SPRINGS®

08 Lytton Springs Vineyard, bottled 3/10

A warm spring and temperate summer brought veraison by the third week of July; we began harvesting the younger zinfandel in the last days of August. A week later, a heat wave ripened all the remaining fruit. To avoid excessive sugar levels, we picked non-stop. The thirty-four vineyard parcels fermented separately on their natural yeasts. Tannin and color extraction was slow, so we maintained twice-daily pump-overs for nine days, on average. After a natural malolactic, the wine was racked to air-dried american oak barrels for fifteen months of aging. Enjoyable now, this full-bodied yet elegant zinfandel will continue to develop over the next ten years. JO (11/09)

74% ZINFANDEL, 21% PETITE SIRAH,
5% 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 28 August - 16 September

Grapes Average Brix 24.9°

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

Barrels 100% air-dried american oak barrels (20% new; 55% one, two and three years old; 25% four and five years old)

Aging Fifteen months in barrel

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 inches (below average)

Bloom Early May

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