

RIDGE 2012 PASO ROBLES ZINFANDEL

100% ZINFANDEL BENITO DUSI RANCH
PASO ROBLES 14.8% ALCOHOL BY VOLUME

HISTORY

The Benito Dusi Ranch is the only vineyard in the Central Coast Viticultural Area from which we source grapes. Our Monte Bello vineyards are in the Santa Cruz Mountains Viticultural Area which is not in the Central Coast. The 1967 vintage was our first wine from this vineyard. It was planted to zinfandel in 1922 which is unusual because Prohibition had started two years earlier. Purchased by Sylvester and Catarina Dusi in 1924, the property has been farmed since the 1940s by their son Benito, the owner.

FIRST RIDGE PASO ROBLES: 1967

GROWING SEASON

Rainfall: 12 inches (below average)

Bloom: Early-May

Weather: Almost ideal conditions, dry summer and fall.

VINTAGE

Harvest Dates: 5 September - 16 October

Grapes: Average Brix 25.5°

Fermentation: 100% natural primary and secondary fermentation. 100% submerged cap; pressed at ten days.

Barrels: 100% air-dried american oak barrels (25% new, 7% two years old, 34% three and 34 % four years old)

Aging: Eleven months in barrel

WINEMAKING

Benito Dusi Vineyard grapes, hand harvested. Destemmed and crushed. Fermented on the native yeasts, followed by full malolactic on the naturally occurring bacteria. A total of 1.3 percent rehydration (added to two of seven fermentors during fermentation). Minimum effective sulfur (35ppm at crush, 113ppm over the course of aging). Oak from barrel aging. Pad filtered at bottling. In keeping with our philosophy of minimal intervention, this is the sum of our actions.



2012 Zinfandel, Paso Robles, bottled Nov 2013
Beni Dusi's ninety-year-old vineyard ripened block by block from September 5 through October 16. The grapes were destemmed, crushed, and pumped to tanks fitted with grids that hold the skins submerged. Natural-yeast fermentations were slow, delaying pressing until day ten. Malolactics, however, finished quickly, allowing assemblage, and an early rack to barrel to begin aging. For natural clarification, we racked quarterly as the lees settled. This classic, warm-region zinfandel is enjoyable now. It will be at its best over the next five to six years. EB (9/13)



Benito Dusi's Vineyard is located three miles south of Paso Robles on the east side of Highway 101.

Soils: Rocky and gravelly, with areas of light soil.

Age of Vines: Zinfandel, 40 acres, ninety-one, years old, planted in 1922.

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

Yields: 1.5 - 2.0 tons per acre

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VINEYARDS

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