

RIDGE 2012 LYTTON ESTATE® PETITE SIRAH

DRY CREEK VALLEY 90% PETITE SIRAH, 10% ZINFANDEL
SONOMA COUNTY 14.2% ALCOHOL BY VOLUME

HISTORY

The oldest petite sirah vines on our Lytton Estate were planted in 1901 and the youngest in 2008. We made our first wine from the property in 1972 and until 2002 when we bottled portions of the petite sirah as a separate wine for a limited release, it had always been included in the Lytton Springs Zinfandel. In 2003 we made another limited release and in 2009 our first national release.

FIRST RIDGE LYTTON ESTATE PETITE SIRAH 2002

GROWING SEASON

Rainfall: 24 inches (below average)

Bloom: Mid-May

Weather: Warm spring and a long, mild summer.

VINTAGE

Harvest Dates: 2-5 October

Grapes: Average Brix 24.8°

Fermentation: Natural primary and secondary; pressed at ten days.

Barrels: 100% air-dried american oak barrels (25% new, 50% one and two years old, 25% three years old).

Aging: Fourteen months in barrel

WINEMAKING

All estate-grown grapes, hand harvested; destemmed and partially crushed; fermented on the native yeasts, followed by full malolactic on the naturally-occurring bacteria; 0.003 g/L tartaric acid added; minimum effective sulfur for this wine (35 ppm at crush; 89 ppm over the course of aging). Pad filtered at bottling. In keeping with our philosophy of minimal intervention, this is the sum of our actions.

2012 Petite Sirah, Lytton Estate, bottled 3/14

An early spring and long, warm summer provided ideal growing conditions for petite sirah at Lytton Springs. By early October, the dark, tightly-packed clusters had accumulated enough sugar for us to pick all three parcels. To moderate tannin extraction, clusters were destemmed, but left uncrushed; to further accentuate fruit, we included a block of old-vine zinfandel. Floral, peppery aromas, rich fruit, and firm structure characterize this exemplary petite sirah. It will be enjoyable over (at least) the next five to seven years. JO (1/14)



Lytton Estate Vineyard is located in the hills and bench land separating Dry Creek and Alexander Valleys, just north of Healdsburg, Sonoma County.

Soils: Gravelly clay loam

Vines: Petite sirah planted 1901 to 1998 at Lytton East (12 acres) and 1987 to 2008 at Lytton West (20.4 acres)

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

Yields: 1.5 tons per acre old vines; 3+ tons per acre young vines

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