

RIDGE 2012 EAST BENCH® ZINFANDEL

DRY CREEK VALLEY 100% ZINFANDEL
SONOMA COUNTY 14.9% ALCOHOL BY VOLUME

HISTORY

Ridge has made the East Bench as a single-site zinfandel since 2006. One of only two Ridge zinfandels that is entirely from the single varietal. The vineyard sits high atop the bench land that overlooks Dry Creek Valley from the east.

FIRST RIDGE VINTAGE 2006

GROWING SEASON

Rainfall: 24 inches (below average)

Bloom: Mid May

Weather: Warm spring and a long, warm summer.

VINTAGE

Harvest Dates: 25 September – 1 October

Grapes: Average Brix 25.1°

Fermentation: Natural primary and secondary; twice daily pump-overs; pressed at nine days.

Barrels: 100% air-dried american oak barrels (20% new, 40% one and two years old, 40% three and four years old.)

Aging: Twelve months in barrel

WINEMAKING

All estate-grown, hand harvested grapes. Destemmed and crushed. Fermented on the native yeasts, followed by a full malolactic on the naturally occurring bacteria; 0.3 g/L tartaric acid; minimum effective sulfur for this wine (35 ppm at crush, 83 ppm during 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, East Bench, bottled Jan 2014
Despite a second year of low rainfall, this ridge-top vineyard set a heavy crop. Fortunately, a hot summer ensured a ripe, albeit delayed, harvest; we picked from September 25 to October 1. Following fermentation, five of the seven blocks were selected and combined. For definition and added spice, we increased the amount of new and one-year-old oak. After twelve months in barrel, the wine is elegant and redolent of red fruit. Enjoyable on release, it will develop fully over the next four to five years. JO (11/13)



VINEYARD

East Bench Vineyard is located on the Eastern bench of Dry Creek Valley, Sonoma County
Soils: Gravelly clay loam

Age of Vines: 13 years

Training: Head trained (no trellis), spur pruned

Yields: 4 tons per acre

RIDGE
VINEYARDS

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www.ridgevine.com

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