

# RIDGE 2013 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:** 24.5 - 30 inches (below average)

**Bloom:** Early to Mid-May

**Weather:** Warm spring and early summer followed by cooler weather that slowed ripening.

## VINTAGE

**Harvest Dates:** 9 - 13 September

**Grapes:** Average Brix 25.1°

**Fermentation:** Natural primary and natural secondary (malolactic) fermentations; 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

Hand harvested; sustainably farmed, estate-grown organic grapes; destemmed and crushed; fermented on the native yeasts, followed by a full malolactic on the naturally occurring bacteria; 1.6 % water addition during fermentation; oak from barrel aging; minimum effective sulfur for this wine (35 ppm at crush, 224 ppm during aging); pad filtered at bottling. In keeping with our philosophy of minimal intervention, this is the sum of our actions.



*2013 Zinfandel, East Bench, bottled Jan 2015*  
The growing season here began with unusually warm weather, and the vines responded with a full crop. Though we dropped fruit in July for optimum ripeness, we had record yields. After fermentation, we chose five of the seven parcels, combined them, and racked to barrel for twelve months' aging. An excellent example of both varietal and site, this wine exhibits the red fruit and peppery flavors characteristic of Dry Creek zinfandels. Enjoyable now, it will evolve fully over the next five years. JO (10/14)



## 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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17100 Monte Bello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014  
650 Lytton Springs Road, Healdsburg, CA 95448