

# RIDGE 2008

## CALIFORNIA

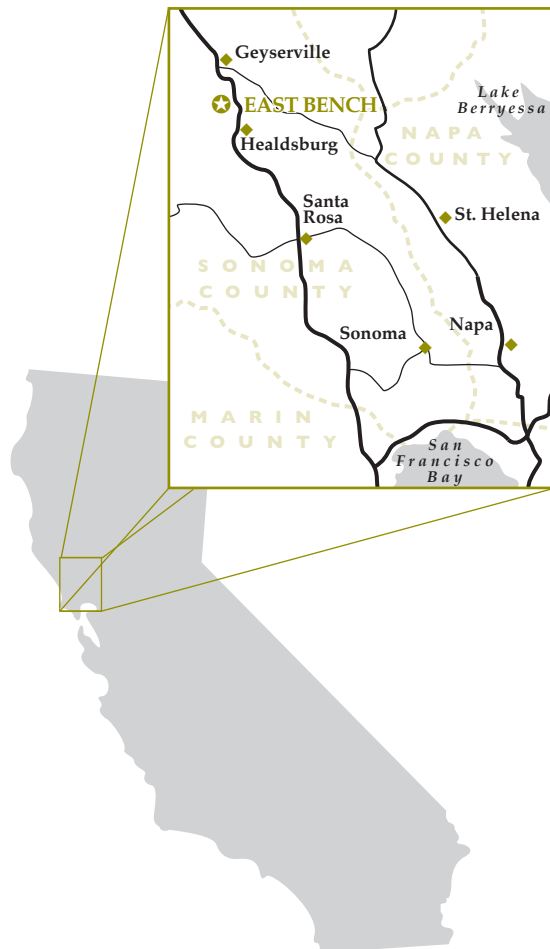
## ZINFANDEL

## EAST BENCH

### *2008 Zinfandel, East Bench, bottled January 2010*

One of our few single-varietal vineyards, East Bench sits atop the ridge that separates Dry Creek and Alexander Valleys. Its red clay/loam soils are ideal for growing zinfandel. In 2008, set was complete by late May; in July, after veraison, we dropped twenty percent of the crop to ensure optimum flavor and intensity. The grapes were hand-harvested between August 26 and September 2, and fermented on their native yeasts. Juice was pumped over the skins twice daily for nine days to achieve balanced tannin, color, and fruit. After natural malolactic, the parcels were combined and racked to air-dried american oak barrels to age for twelve months. The 2008 East Bench is quintessential Dry Creek Valley, exhibiting the red fruit, pepper spice, and mineral flavors that have made the region famous. Enjoyable now, the wine will develop fully over the next five to seven years. JO (11/09)

100% ZINFANDEL  
14.9% alcohol by volume



### History

This is our third vintage from vines on the benchland that separates Dry Creek and Alexander Valleys. The soils are identical across the bench as are the climatic conditions giving the wines the chance to demonstrate consistent character as they mature. The original vineyards were abandoned around 1920, but the blocks have been gradually replanted over the last thirty years. This wine is from vines replanted in 2000, using budwood from our own old-vine vineyards. The East Bench zinfandel is classic Dry Creek—rich and structured with brambly dark fruit and chalky yet balanced tannins.

### Vintage

<b>Harvest Dates</b>	29 August - 2 September
<b>Grapes</b>	Average Brix 27.5°
<b>Fermentation</b>	No inoculation; natural primary and secondary. Pressed at six days.
<b>Aging</b>	100% air-dried american oak barrels (25% new, 50% one to three, 25% four to five years old)
<b>Time in Barrel</b>	Twelve months

### Vineyard

<b>First RIDGE East Bench</b>	2006
<b>Location</b>	On top of the bench that separates Dry Creek and Alexander Valley appellations, north of Healdsburg, Sonoma County
<b>Soils</b>	Gravelly clay loam
<b>Vines</b>	Zinfandel planted in 2000 from three 19th century vineyard selections
<b>Training</b>	Head trained (no trellis), spur pruned
<b>Yields</b>	3.5 tons per acre

### Growing Season

<b>Rainfall</b>	Thirty inches (below average)
<b>Bloom</b>	Early May
<b>Weather</b>	Dry spring with a typically warm, dry summer, and no sustained heat spells