

RIDGE 2008

CALIFORNIA

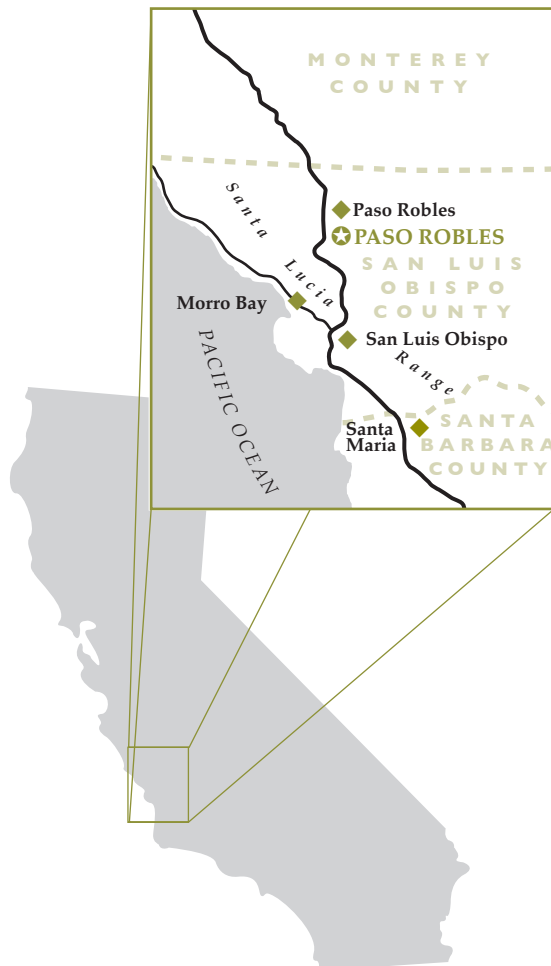
ZINFANDEL

PASO ROBLES

2008 Zinfandel, Paso Robles, bottled December 2009

This second drought year reduced yields in Benito Dusi's eighty-six-year-old vineyard. The vines ripened uniformly, and we harvested all three parcels within a week—a record. The three were kept separate, and two of the six tanks were fitted with grids to hold the caps submerged for fuller extraction. Primary fermentation was carried out by natural yeasts. Juice was pumped over the cap twice daily until pressing—day eight, on average. Uninoculated secondary fermentation took forty days. The finished lots were blind-tasted for assemblage; for once, all could be included. The wine's concentrated flavor called for a higher-than-usual percentage of new oak. Exotic barrel spices complement the vineyard's ripe bramble fruit, and this year's intense color is striking. Integrated and enjoyable now, this excellent vintage will develop over the next five to seven years. *EB (8/09)*

100% ZINFANDEL
14.6% alcohol by volume



History

Dusi Ranch is the only Ridge vineyard in the Central Coast Viticultural Area. It is planted entirely to zinfandel, unusual in a vineyard more than eighty years old. Purchased by Sylvester and Catarina Dusi in 1924, the property has been farmed since the 1940s by their son Benito, the owner.

Vintage

Harvest Dates 23 August - 3 September

Grapes Average Brix 25.7°

Fermentation 100% natural primary and secondary fermentation—63% submerged cap, 37% floating cap. Pressed at eight days on average.

Barrels 100% air-dried american oak barrels (30% new, 56% one and two years old, 14% three years old)

Aging Ten months in barrel

Vineyard

First RIDGE Paso Robles 1967

Location Three miles south of Paso Robles on the east side of Highway 101

Soils Rocky and gravelly with areas of light soil

Vines Zinfandel, 40 acres, planted 1922

Training Head trained (no trellis), spur pruned

Yields 1.5 to 2.0 tons per acre

Growing Season

Rainfall Twelve inches (below average)

Bloom Mid-May

Weather Dry and hot spring, dry summer and fall