

RIDGE 2008

CALIFORNIA

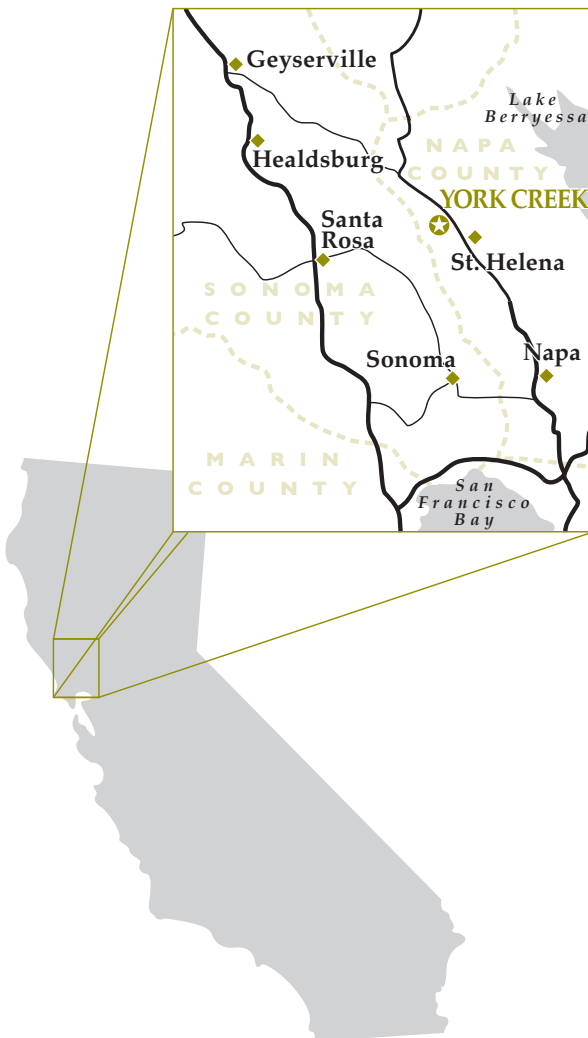
ZINFANDEL

YORK CREEK

2008 Zinfandel York Creek, bottled February 2010

After two years of full yields, this Spring Mountain District vineyard above Napa Valley set a very small crop in 2008. Despite mild summer weather, the grapes were ripe by Labor Day, two weeks earlier than usual. Harvest began September 5 with the young zinfandel, and ended the next week with the thirty-six year old petite sirah; individual parcels fermented separately on their natural yeasts. We pressed as the wines went dry, at eleven days on average. Following natural malolactic, we tasted the finished wines, selecting the five most intense to represent the vintage. The combined lots then aged for fourteen months in air-dried american oak. This full-bodied wine shows the rustic flavors and firm structure typical of zinfandel from York Creek. It will evolve over the next seven to eight years. JO (11/09)

79% ZINFANDEL, 21% PETITE SIRAH
14.9% alcohol by volume



History

York Creek Vineyard, situated high on Spring Mountain, overlooks St. Helena and the Napa Valley from the west. Ridge came here in 1971 for the old-vine petite sirah. We first harvested York Creek zinfandel in 1975, and have made it in every vintage since.

Vintage

Harvest Dates 5 - 11 September

Grapes Average Brix 24.8°

Fermentation No inoculation; natural primary and secondary (68% submerged, 32% floating cap). Pressed at eleven days.

Barrels 100% air-dried american oak barrels (20% new, 25% one to two years old and 55% three to five years old)

Aging Twelve months in barrel

Vineyard

First RIDGE Zinfandel York Creek 1975

Location Spring Mountain, western edge of Napa County

Soils Well-drained Boomer gravelly loam, Felton loam

Elevation 1600' - 1800'

Vines Zinfandel, planted early 1970s, 16 acres
Zinfandel, planted 1989-90, 13 acres
Petite sirah, planted 1973, 5.3 acres

Training Head trained (no trellis), spur pruned

Yields 2.5 tons per acre

Growing Season

Rainfall Thirty inches (below normal)

Bloom Early May

Weather A dry spring and a warm, dry summer with no sustained heat spells

RIDGE

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