

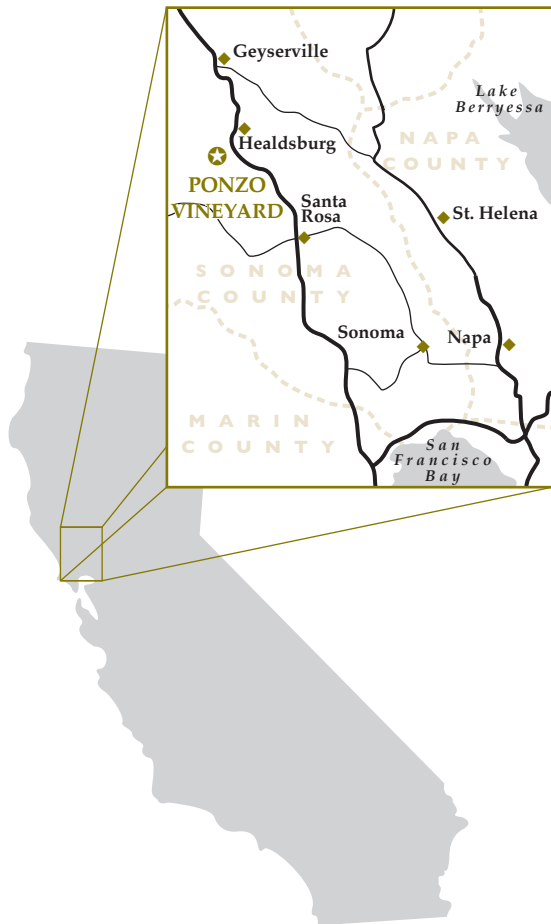
RIDGE 2009

PONZO

ZINFANDEL

2009 Zinfandel Ponzo Vineyard, bottled Feb 2011
Late rains delayed the growing season at Bob Ponzo's vineyard in the Russian River Valley, but summer leaf-pulling maximized sunlight on the clusters, and expedited ripening. Harvest began on October 2, and finished six days later, just ahead of this fall's torrential storm. The grapes macerated for eight days during native-yeast fermentation, yielding a wine rich in color and fruit, with firm natural acidity. After uninoculated malolactic fermentation, the wine aged for thirteen months in air-dried american oak barrels. Enjoyable now, this sumptuous zinfandel will be at its best over the next five years. JO (9/10)

98% ZINFANDEL, 2% PETITE SIRAH
14.8% alcohol by volume



History

Bob Ponzo has farmed these grapes for us in the Russian River Valley since 1999. Bob's vineyard, on deep gravelly loam soils four and a half miles south of Lytton Springs, provides all of the fruit for this zinfandel. The Russian River Valley's cooler microclimate ripens this fruit shortly after Lytton Springs and Geyserville. Small amounts of petite sirah are interplanted with zinfandel in the oldest block.

Vineyard

First RIDGE Ponzo	2002
Location	Russian River Valley, south of Healdsburg on Old Redwood Highway
Soils	Deep, gravelly loam
Vines	Mixed zinfandel, petite sirah, planted c. 1952, 4.0 acres (old vines) Zinfandel planted 1992, 3.0 acres (Triangle) Zinfandel planted 1999, 5.0 acres (Back Block)
Training	Majority head trained (no trellis), and spur pruned. Back Block cordon trained.
Yields	Two to three tons per acre

Growing Season

Rainfall	Thirty-four inches (below normal)
Bloom	Late May
Weather	Dry winter saved by spring rains; typical warm, dry summer.

Vintage

Harvest Dates	2 - 8 October
Grapes	Average Brix 25.6°
Fermentation	No inoculation—natural primary and secondary; rapid color and tannin extraction. Pressed at eight days.
Barrels	100% air-dried american oak barrels (20% new, 40% one and two years old, 30% three and four years old, and 10% five year old)
Aging	Thirteen months in barrel