

RIDGE 2010

PASO ROBLES

ZINFANDEL

100% ZINFANDEL BENITO DUSI RANCH
 SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY 14.4% ALCOHOL BY VOLUME

HISTORY

The Benito Dusi Ranch is the only vineyard in the Central Coast Viticultural Area from which we source grapes. The 1967 vintage was our first wine from this vineyard. 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.

FIRST RIDGE PASO ROBLES: 1967

GROWING SEASON

Rainfall: 13 inches (below average)

Bloom: Mid May

Weather: Cool, late spring; warm summer; long, warm fall.

VINTAGE

Harvest Dates: 6- 23 September

Grapes: Average Brix 24.9°

Fermentation: 100% natural primary and secondary fermentation. 32% submerged cap; pressed at seven days.

Barrels: 100% air-dried american oak barrels (75% one and two years old, 25% three years old)

Aging: Eleven months in barrel

WINEMAKING

Benito Dusi Vineyard grapes, hand harvested. Destemmed and crushed. Fermented on the native yeasts, followed by full malolactic on the naturally occurring bacteria. A total of 2.2 percent rehydration (added to four particularly ripe parcels) during fermentation. Minimum effective sulfur (35ppm at crush, 75 ppm over the course of aging). 0.27 g/L of calcium carbonate added to six unusually acidic lots. Pad filtered at bottling. In keeping with our philosophy of minimal intervention, this is the sum of our actions.



2010 Zinfandel, Paso Robles, bottled Dec 11
 This was the coolest growing season of the last forty years. Compared to a typical summer, temperatures in Paso Robles, our warm-est zinfandel region, were mild. Harvest began with the north parcel, moved to the south, and ended with the canyon. Natural-yeast fermentations finished in seven days. Natural malolactic, in contrast, progressed slowly, finally finishing in March. Unusually high acidity lends a refreshing quality to the rich fruit. This fine wine will be at its best over the next five to seven years. EB (8/11)



Benito Dusi's Vineyard is located three miles south of Paso Robles on the east side of Highway 101.

Soils: Rocky and gravelly, with areas of light soil.

Age of Vines: Zinfandel, 40 acres, planted in 1922.

Training: Head trained (no trellis), spur pruned.

Yields: 1.5 - 2.0 tons per acre