

RIDGE 2011 EAST BENCH® ZINFANDEL

DRY CREEK VALLEY 100% ZINFANDEL
SONOMA COUNTY 14.6% ALCOHOL BY VOLUME

HISTORY

Ridge has made the East Bench as a single-site zinfandel since 2006. One of our few single-variety wines, this zinfandel vineyard sits high on top of the bench land that overlooks Dry Creek Valley from the east.

FIRST RIDGE VINTAGE 2006

GROWING SEASON

Rainfall: 40 inches (above average)

Bloom: Late May

Weather: Wet spring and atypical cool summer; with no sustained heat spells.

VINTAGE

Harvest Dates: 19 - 24 September

Grapes: Average Brix 24.9°

Fermentation: Natural primary and secondary; twice daily pump-overs; pressed at nine days.

Barrels: 100% air-dried american oak barrels (20% new, 40% one and two years old, 40% three and four years old.)

Aging: Thirteen months in barrel

WINEMAKING

All estate-grown grapes, hand harvested. Destemmed and crushed. Fermented on the native yeasts, followed by full malolactic on the naturally occurring bacteria. Minimum effective sulfur (35 ppm at crush, 180 ppm over the course of aging). Pad filtered at bottling. In keeping with our philosophy of minimal intervention, this is the sum of our actions.



2011 Zinfandel, East Bench, bottled February 2013
Summer was mild; not a single day reached 100°F. Grapes on this twelve-year-old vineyard ripened two weeks later than usual, and were harvested between September 19 and 24—well before October's untimely rains. Juice was pumped over the skins twice daily for nine days, achieving balanced tannin, full color, and intense fruit. After natural malolactic, six of the seven parcels were combined, then racked to air-dried american oak for thirteen months' aging. Showing briary black fruit, pepper, and spice, this rich zinfandel will be at its best over the next five or six years. JO (12/12)



VINEYARD

East Bench Vineyard is located on the eastern bench of Dry Creek Valley, Sonoma County
Soils: Gravelly clay loam
Age of Vines: 12 years
Training: Head trained (no trellis), spur pruned
Yields: 3.5 tons per acre

RIDGE
VINEYARDS

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www.ridgevine.com

Exceptional single-vineyard wines since 1962.

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