

# RIDGE 2011 LYTTON ESTATE® PETITE SIRAH

DRY CREEK VALLEY 100% PETITE SIRAH  
SONOMA COUNTY 13.5% ALCOHOL BY VOLUME

## HISTORY

The oldest petite sirah vines on our Lytton Estate were planted in 1901 and the youngest in 1998. We made our first wine from the property in 1972 and until 2002 when we bottled portions of the petite sirah as a separate wine for a limited release, it had always been included in the Lytton Springs Zinfandel. In 2003 we made another limited release and in 2009 our first national release.

**FIRST RIDGE LYTTON ESTATE PETITE SIRAH 2002**

## GROWING SEASON

**Rainfall:** 40 inches (above average)

**Bloom:** Late May

**Weather:** Wet spring and a typical cool summer, with no sustained heat spells.

## VINTAGE

**Harvest Dates:** 30 September

**Grapes:** Average Brix 23.1°

**Fermentation:** Natural primary and secondary; pressed at ten days.

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

**Aging:** Fourteen months in barrel

## WINEMAKING

All estate-grown grapes, hand harvested. Destemmed and partially crushed. Fermented on the native yeasts, followed by full malolactic on the naturally-occurring bacteria. Minimum effective sulfur (35 ppm at crush; 102ppm 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 Petite Sirah, Lytton Estate, bottled 2/13*

This wine comes from a block of vines on a rocky knoll at Lytton Springs West. As grape varieties go, petite sirah is not hard to understand. It's King Kong. The trick, therefore, once it's harvested and in the winery, is to find its softer side and coax out some of the light-hearted elements that lurk within. In 2011, we think we achieved just that. After a whole berry, natural yeast fermentation, the wine was aged for fourteen months in american oak. Floral, peppery, and enjoyable now, this limited release will be best over the next ten years. JO (12/12)



**Lytton Estate Vineyard** is located in the hills and bench land separating Dry Creek and Alexander Valleys, just north of Healdsburg, Sonoma County.

**Soils:** Gravelly clay loam

**Age of Vines:** Petite sirah planted 1901 to 1998 at Lytton East (12 acres) and 1987 to 2001 at Lytton West (23 acres)

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

**Yields:** 1.5 to 3+ tons per acre



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