

RIDGE 2011

PONZO

ZINFANDEL

97% ZINFANDEL, 3% PETITE SIRAH
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY 14.1% 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 the fruit for this zinfandel. The Russian River Valley's cooler microclimate ripens the grapes shortly after Lytton Springs and Geyserville. Small amounts of petite sirah are interplanted with zinfandel in the oldest block.

FIRST RIDGE PONZO: 2002

GROWING SEASON

Rainfall: 40 inches (above average)

Bloom: Late May

Weather: Wet spring and atypically cool summer, with no sustained heat spells.

VINTAGE

Harvest Dates: 24 September and 1 October

Grapes: Average Brix 24.5°

Fermentation: No inoculation—natural primary and secondary. Rapid color and tannin extraction. Pressed at seven days.

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

Aging: Twelve months in barrel

WINEMAKING

Hand harvested Bob Ponzo vineyard grapes; destemmed and crushed; fermented on the native yeasts, followed by full malolactic on the naturally occurring bacteria; Minimum effective sulfur (35 ppm at crush, 111 ppm over the course of aging); aged in oak barrels; pad filtered at bottling. In keeping with our philosophy of minimal intervention, this is the sum of our actions.

2011 Zinfandel, Ponzo Vineyard, bottled Dec '12
Late spring rains reduced yields for a second year, and cool summer temperatures slowed ripening. Fortunately, heat in mid-September fully matured the fruit just before the first fall rains. We harvested Triangle and Old Vine blocks on September 24, and Back block on October 1. After natural primary and malolactic fermentations, the three were combined and racked to barrel for twelve months of aging. The 2011 Ponzo has the intense fruit typical of a Russian River vineyard, and the bright acidity characteristic of the vintage. This elegant zinfandel will be most enjoyable over the next three to five years. JO (9/12)



Ponzo Vineyard is located in 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), spur pruned. Back block cordon trained.

Yields: Two to three tons per acre



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