

RIDGE 2005

CALIFORNIA

ZINFANDEL

PONZO

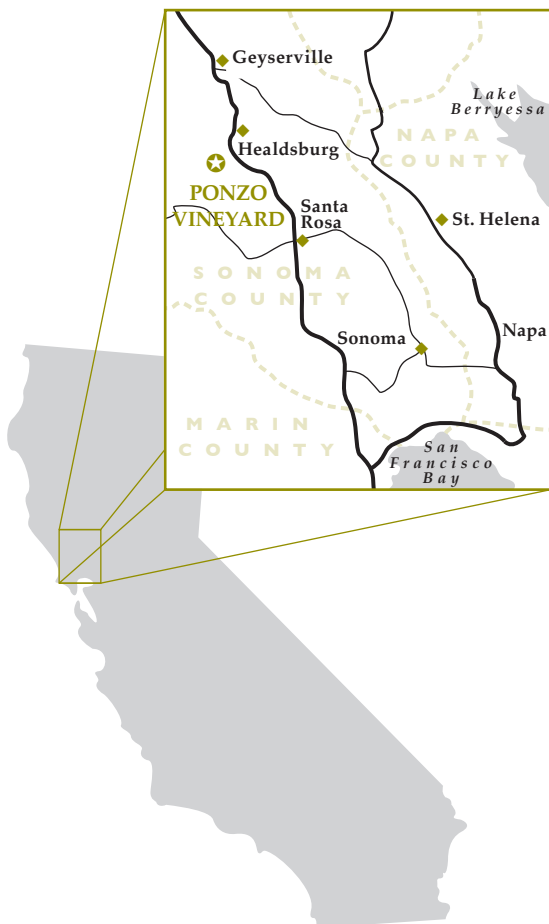
VINEYARD

05 Zinfandel Ponzo Vineyard, bottled Feb 07

All the fruit in this, our fourth Ponzo Zinfandel, comes from Bob Ponzo's vineyard just south of Healdsburg. As in 2004, favorable spring weather brought a full set, and with it the need for rigorous thinning at veraison. Grapes ripen slowly in the cool Russian River Valley—a full two weeks behind Dry Creek Valley just to the north; picking began October 3 on the Old Vine block of interplanted zinfandel and petite sirah. Younger vines on the Back Block were given an extra week to ripen further and moderate their firm acidity. During natural-yeast fermentations we pumped over twice daily, and pressed at seven days. After a natural malolactic, Triangle and Back blocks were combined with the more-tannic Old Vines. The wine was bottled after twelve months in air-dried american oak. The 2005 Ponzo is a beautifully balanced, sensuous wine. Enjoyable now, it will continue to develop over the next five to six years. JO/PD (12/06)

97% ZINFANDEL, 3% PETITE SIRAH

14.9% alcohol by volume



History

Bob Ponzo farms these grapes for us in the Russian River Valley. In 1991, when we purchased Lytton Springs Winery, we began using the fruit from Phil Ponzo, Bob's cousin, as the backbone of our multi-vineyard Sonoma Zinfandels. Bob's vineyard, on identical soils a quarter-mile away, was first included in 1999 and with this vintage provides all of the grapes for the Ponzo 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.

Vintage

Harvest Dates 3 - 10 October

Grapes Average brix 26.0°

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

Aging 100% air-dried american oak barrels (22% new, 15% one year old, 63% three to seven years old)

Time in Barrel Twelve months

Vineyard

First RIDGE Ponzo 2002

Location Russian River Valley, south of Healdsburg on Old Redwood Highway in Sonoma County.

Soils Deep, gravelly loam.

Vines Zinfandel and petite sirah planted 1952, 4 acres.
zinfandel planted 1992, 3 acres.
zinfandel planted 1999, 5 acres.

Training Majority head trained (no trellis), spur pruned; two blocks cordon trained.

Yields Two to three tons per acre

Growing Season

Rainfall Sixty inches (above normal)

Bloom May (sooner than normal)

Weather Cool, wet spring; warm dry summer with no intense heat at harvest.