

RIDGE 2014 PASO ROBLES ZINFANDEL

100% ZINFANDEL BENITO DUSI RANCH
PASO ROBLES 14.4% ALCOHOL BY VOLUME

HISTORY

Benito Dusi's Ranch is the only vineyard in the Central Coast Viticultural Area from which we source grapes. Our Monte Bello vineyards are in the Santa Cruz Mountains Viticultural Area which is not a part of the Central Coast. The 1967 vintage was our first wine from the Dusi Ranch. It was planted to zinfandel in 1922 which is unusual because Prohibition had started two years earlier. 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: 6.5 inches (half of normal)

Bloom: Mid-May

Weather: Very cold and dry December, not much rain until February & March. Typical hot days and cool nights during growing season.

VINTAGE

Harvest Dates: 30 August - 5 September

Grapes: Average Brix 24.6°

Fermentation: 100% natural primary and secondary fermentation; 15% submerged cap and 85% floating cap; pressed at seven days.

Barrels: 100% air-dried american oak barrels; 21% new, 51% two and three years old, 28% four and five years old).

Aging: Twelve 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; oak from barrel aging; minimum effective sulfur for this wine (35ppm at crush, 150ppm over the course of aging). Pad filtered at bottling. In keeping with our philosophy of minimal intervention, this is the sum of our actions.



2014 Zinfandel, Paso Robles, bottled 12/15
The third year of drought—and driest yet—reduced yields. Miraculously, the vines held on for a late-August harvest. A seven-day fermentation fully extracted the small berries, producing an intense wine. A warm January increased cellar temperatures, finishing the remaining sugar. Once returned to barrel, the wine continued aging for twelve months. Ripe fruit, exotic spice, and elegant tannins give it immediate appeal, and it will be at its best over the next five to seven years. EB (8/15)



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, 25 acres, ninety-two years old, planted 1922.

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

Yields: 2.6 tons per acre

RIDGE
VINEYARDS

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