

RIDGE 2014 EAST BENCH® ZINFANDEL

DRY CREEK VALLEY 100% ZINFANDEL
SONOMA COUNTY 14.9% ALCOHOL BY VOLUME

HISTORY

Ridge has made the East Bench as a single-site zinfandel since 2006. One of only two Ridge zinfandels that is entirely from the single varietal. The vineyard sits high atop the bench land that overlooks Dry Creek Valley from the east.

FIRST RIDGE VINTAGE 2006

GROWING SEASON

Rainfall: 18 inches (1/2 of normal)

Bloom: Mid-May, with veraison by mid-August.

Weather: Very dry and cold December and January; most of the rain fell February through April. Cool spring and early summer delayed ripening.

VINTAGE

Harvest Dates: 30 August - 24 September

Grapes: Average Brix 25.7°

Fermentation: Natural primary and natural secondary (malolactic) fermentations; twice daily pump-overs; pressed at nine days.

Barrels: 100% air-dried american oak barrels (20% new, 40% one and two years old, 30% three and four years old and 10% five years old)

Aging: Twelve months in barrel

WINEMAKING

Hand harvested; sustainably farmed, estate-grown organic grapes; destemmed and crushed; fermented on the native yeasts, followed by a full malolactic on the naturally occurring bacteria; 0.27 % water addition during fermentation; oak from barrel aging; 0.14 g/L tartaric acid; minimum effective sulfur for this wine (35 ppm at crush, 145 ppm during aging); pad filtered at bottling. In keeping with our philosophy of minimal intervention, this is the sum of our actions.



2014 Zinfandel, East Bench, bottled 12/2015
Fifteen years ago, Ridge planted this hilltop to zinfandel; as the vines matured, flavors intensified. Spring rain reduced this year's crop, and a warm August brought early harvest. Smaller berries and lower yields meant concentration; for the first time all seven parcels were equally outstanding, and therefore included. This robust but approachable zinfandel is enjoyable now, or over the next six to seven years. JO (10/15)



VINEYARD

East Bench Vineyard is located on the Eastern bench of Dry Creek Valley, Sonoma County
Soils: Gravelly clay loam

Age of Vines: 13 years

Training: Head trained (no trellis), spur pruned

Yields: 5 tons per acre

RIDGE
VINEYARDS

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