

RIDGE 2015 EAST BENCH® ZINFANDEL

DRY CREEK VALLEY
SONOMA COUNTY

100% ZINFANDEL

HISTORY

Ridge has made the East Bench as a single-site zinfandel since 2006, one of only two Ridge zinfandels that is 100% zinfandel. The vineyard sits high atop the bench land that overlooks Dry Creek Valley from the east.

FIRST RIDGE VINTAGE 2006

GROWING SEASON

Rainfall: 33.2 inches (just below normal)

Bloom: Mid-May

Weather: Very wet December, followed by the driest January on record (0.05"). Cool, wet late spring helped with rainfall totals, but reduced our crop across all varieties. Harvest started early (mid-August) and finished quickly.

VINTAGE

Harvest Dates: 12 August - 9 September

Grapes: Average Brix 25.4°

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

Barrels: 100% air-dried american oak barrels (10% new, 40% one and two years old, 50% three and four 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; 1.2 % water addition during fermentation; oak from barrel aging; minimum effective sulfur for this wine (35 ppm at crush, 59 ppm during aging); pad filtered at bottling. In keeping with our philosophy of minimal intervention, this is the sum of our actions.



2015 Zinfandel, East Bench, bottled 12/2016
This is our tenth vintage from this vineyard. A light crop with small berries yielded a wine with deep color, intense fruit and chalky tannins. The seven parcels that comprise the vineyard were fermented separately, then evaluated by blind tasting. Quality was high in all seven lots, which were blended, then aged in American oak for twelve months. Enjoyable now, this zinfandel will develop for another six to seven years.
JO (8/16)



VINEYARD

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

Age of Vines: 16 years

Training: Head trained (no trellis), spur pruned

Yields: 5 tons per acre

RIDGE
VINEYARDS

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