

# RIDGE 2015

# PONZO

# ZINFANDEL

97% ZINFANDEL, 3% PETITE SIRAH  
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY 14.9% 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: 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: 10-12 September

Grapes: Average Brix 26.3°

Fermentation: Grapes destemmed and crushed, pumped over a floating cap and pressed at twelve 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; 1.5% water addition; oak from barrel aging; minimum effective sulfur for this wine (35 ppm at crush, 91 ppm over the course of aging); pad filtered at bottling. In keeping with our philosophy of minimal intervention, this is the sum of our actions.

*2015 Zinfandel, Ponzo Vineyard, bottled 11/16*  
Favorable spring weather helped set a full crop at the Ponzo vineyard. The temperate climate of the Russian River Valley typically delays harvest into October, but by early September the grapes were fully ripe. After a natural yeast fermentation, we chose the Old Vines block for its structure and the Front and Back blocks for their intense fruit and aromatics. This sumptuous zinfandel will be best over the next six years.

JO (8/16)



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 (Front). 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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