

RIDGE 2015 PASO ROBLES ZINFANDEL

100% ZINFANDEL BENITO DUSI RANCH
PASO ROBLES

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 inches (half of normal)

Bloom: Late May

Weather: Very dry winter & spring. In July monsoon rains dropped 2-3" that helped save the small crop.

VINTAGE

Harvest Dates: 22 - 25 August

Grapes: Average Brix 26.2°

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

Barrels: 100% air-dried american oak barrels; 80% two years old, 20% three years old).

Aging: Fourteen 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; 3.4% water addition; oak from barrel aging; minimum effective sulfur for this wine (35 ppm at crush, 37ppm 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, Paso Robles, bottled 01/17
Continued drought weakened vine growth while storms at bloom cut yields in half. A fast-paced harvest began August 22nd and finished the 25th. Fermented for seven days, the wine is elegant yet structured. Once malolactics finished, the blend of the two major parcels was racked to barrel. It clarified naturally while tannins softened. This appealing zinfandel will develop fully over the next five to six years. EB (11/16)



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-three years old, planted 1922.

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

Yields: 1.9 tons per acre

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