

RIDGE 2016 PASO ROBLES ZINFANDEL

100% ZINFANDEL PASO ROBLES BENITO DUSI RANCH
14.6% 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: 18 inches (normal)

Bloom: Late May

Weather: Good winter rains; vines bounced back with an almost normal crop of excellent fruit.

Harvest Dates: 25 August - 2 September

Grapes: Average Brix 25.0°

WINEMAKING

Fermentation: 100% natural primary and secondary fermentation; 100% submerged cap; pressed at eleven days.

Barrels: 100% air-dried american oak barrels; 70% two years old, 30% three years old).

Aging: Twelve months in barrel

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 (35 ppm at crush, 41 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.



2016 Zinfandel, Paso Robles, bottled 11/17
A wet winter helped the vines recover from drought. Yields returned to normal. Summer warmth ripened the crop for a late August harvest. Destemmed and fully crushed grapes were sent to tanks for submerged-cap fermentation, lasting eleven days. This made a wine with great complexity and richness. Showing Paso Robles' warm region character, it's appealing now, and will continue to develop over the next eight years. EB (8/17)



SITE

Benito Dusi's Vineyard is located three miles south of Paso Robles on the east side of Highway 101, within the Templeton Gap District. **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: 2.5 tons per acre

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