

RIDGE 2016 EAST BENCH ZINFANDEL

DRY CREEK VALLEY
SONOMA COUNTY

100% ZINFANDEL
14.9% ALCOHOL BY VOLUME

HISTORY

Ridge has made the East Bench as a single vineyard since 2006, one of the few 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: 38 inches

Bloom: Mid-May

Weather: Wet December and January help ease the drought which emphatically ended in March. Cool weather in April reduced our crop a bit. Harvest started early September and finished quickly.

VINTAGE

Harvest Dates: 1 - 5 September

Grapes: Average Brix 25.4°

Fermentation: Natural primary and natural secondary (malolactic) fermentations; once daily pump-overs; 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: Eleven 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; 0.8 % water addition during fermentation; oak from barrel aging; minimum effective sulfur for this wine (35 ppm at crush, 45 ppm during aging); pad filtered at bottling. In keeping with our philosophy of minimal intervention, this is the sum of our actions.



2016 Zinfandel, East Bench, bottled 08/2017
After two short harvests, the vines set a full crop. Each parcel was picked and crushed to separate fermentors. Natural yeast fermentations were slow but steady; we limited pump-overs to once daily to manage tannin extraction. After malolactic we chose six of the seven blocks for their depth of fruit, color and structure. Approachable as a young wine, this fine zinfandel will be at its best over the next eight years. JO (6/17)



VINEYARD

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

Age of Vines: 17 years

Training: Head trained (no trellis), spur pruned

Yields: 5 tons per acre

RIDGE
VINEYARDS

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