

RIDGE 2016

PONZO

ZINFANDEL

97% ZINFANDEL, 3% PETITE SIRAH
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY 14.7% ALCOHOL BY VOLUME

HISTORY

Bob Ponzo has farmed these vines in the Russian River Valley for over 40 years. The vineyard, planted on deep gravelly loam soils, is four and a half miles south of Lytton Springs. Here, the Russian River Valley's cooler microclimate ripens the grapes later than at Lytton Springs and Geyserville. Small amounts of petite sirah are interplanted with zinfandel in the oldest block.

FIRST RIDGE PONZO: 2002

VINTAGE

Rainfall: 38 inches

Bloom: Mid-May

Weather: A wet December and January helped ease the drought which emphatically ended in March. Cool weather in April reduced the crop a bit. Harvest started and finished in early September.

Harvest Dates: 8 & 10 September

Grapes: Average Brix 24.8°

WINEMAKING

Fermentation: Grapes destemmed and crushed, pumped over a floating cap and pressed at eleven days.

Barrels: 100% air-dried american oak barrels (15% new, 20% one year old, 20% two years old and 45% three, four and five years old).

Aging: Ten months in barrel

Hand-harvested, Bob Ponzo vineyard grapes; 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, 46 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, Ponzo Vineyard, bottled 08/17
Warm weather brought veraison early at which point we thinned the Young Vines parcel to intensify flavors. All three parcels were picked in early September and crushed to separate fermentors. After malolactic we chose the Old Vines and Triangle for their richness and balanced acidity. In later tasting we added the aromatic Young Vines to complement the wine's sensuous fruit. This beautiful zinfandel, enjoyable on release, will develop further over seven to eight years. JO (6/17)



SITE

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

RIDGE
VINEYARDS

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