

RIDGE 2017 EAST BENCH ZINFANDEL

DRY CREEK VALLEY 100% ZINFANDEL (organically grown)
SONOMA COUNTY 14.7% 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

VINTAGE

Rainfall: 61.5 inches (above normal)

Bloom: Mid-May

Weather: A wet winter gave us the needed rains. Cool weather in the spring affected set across all varieties. Several heat spikes in late June, July and August saw temperatures over 105 degrees. Harvest started before the Labor Day heat wave hit; we quickly finished harvesting by mid-September.

Harvest Dates: 29 August - 1 September

Grapes: Average Brix 25.0°

WINEMAKING

Fermentation: Natural primary and natural secondary (malolactic) fermentations; once daily pump-overs; pressed at eleven days.

Barrels: 100% air-dried american oak barrels (10% new oak, 25% one year, 25% two year, 20% three year, 20% four year).

Aging: Twelve months in barrel

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; oak from barrel aging; minimum effective sulfur for this wine (35 ppm at crush, 182 ppm during aging); pad filtered at bottling. In keeping with our philosophy of minimal intervention, this is the sum of our actions.



2017 Zinfandel, East Bench, bottled 12/2018
In 1999, we planted this twenty acre parcel to zinfandel. As the vineyard matures, depth and complexity of flavor have increased. In 2017, the vines set a short crop with smaller clusters than usual, resulting in one of the most concentrated wines we have made from East Bench. Twelve months aging in American oak has softened tannins. Enjoyable upon release, this exemplary zinfandel will age for a further six-to-seven years. JO (9/18)



SITE

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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