

RIDGE 2017 LYTTON ESTATE PETITE SIRAH

DRY CREEK VALLEY
SONOMA COUNTY

94% PETITE SIRAH, 6% ZINFANDEL
13.8% ALCOHOL BY VOLUME

HISTORY

The oldest petite sirah vines on our Lytton Estate were planted in 1901 and the youngest in 2008. We made our first wine from the property in 1972. In 2002, we began bottling portions of the petite sirah as a separate wine for a limited release, up until then it had always been included in the Lytton Springs Zinfandel. In 2003 we made another limited release and in 2009 our first national release.

FIRST RIDGE LYTTON ESTATE PETITE SIRAH 2002

VINTAGE

Rainfall: 38 inches

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: 1 - 9 September

Grapes: Average Brix 23.5°

WINEMAKING

Fermentation: Whole berry fermentation. Natural primary and secondary; limited pump-overs to once daily; pressed at seven days.

Barrels: 100% air-dried american oak barrels (20% new, 20% one year, 30% three year, 15% four year, 15% five year).

Aging: Twelve months in barrel

Hand-harvested, sustainably grown, estate grapes; destemmed, whole berry 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; 93 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.



2017 Petite Sirah, bottled December 2018
Heavy winter rains replenished ground-water and gave the vines a much needed break from the drought. The petite sirah at Lytton Springs responded with a full crop. A series of very warm days in August, however, caused stress on the vines and a loss of twenty percent of the fruit. An adjacent block of zinfandel was included to soften tannins. This full-bodied petite sirah will be enjoyable over the next fifteen years. JO (9/18)



SITE

Lytton Estate Vineyard is located in the hills and bench land separating Dry Creek and Alexander Valleys, just north of Healdsburg, Sonoma County.

Soils: Gravelly clay loam

Vines: Petite Sirah planted 1901 to 1998 at Lytton East (12 acres) and 1987 to 2008 at Lytton West (20.4 acres). 12 acres of grapes from Lytton West were used for this wine.

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

Yields: 2 tons per acre.

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