

RIDGE 2017

PONZO

ZINFANDEL

98% ZINFANDEL, 2% PETITE SIRAH
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY 14.6% 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: 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: 5 & 9 September

Grapes: Average Brix 23.0°

WINEMAKING

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

Barrels: 100% air-dried american oak barrels (10% new, 20% on year old, 20% two years old, and 50% three and four 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, 49 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 Zinfandel, Ponzo Vineyard, bottled 08/18
This vineyard, in the cool Russian River Valley, set a full crop that ripened evenly despite a heat spike in late August that caused sugars to rise rapidly. We harvested all three vineyard blocks by September 9th, three weeks earlier than usual. The old vines contribute depth and richness; the young vines add elegant, layered fruit. Enjoyable upon release, this sumptuous zinfandel will develop over the next five years. JO (5/18)



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: 3.1 tons per acre

RIDGE
VINEYARDS

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