



# LYTTON SPRINGS

## 2018 SONOMA COUNTY HARVEST REPORT

BY JOHN OLNEY

Dry weather throughout winter hinted at the return of drought conditions to Sonoma County. Fortunately, a series of heavy rains in March quelled such fears, returning moisture to the soil in time for the growing season ahead. The stormy spring weather was, however, accompanied by cooler temperatures, which delayed bud break. A warm but not excessively hot summer extended the ripening period.

After a series of years with early harvests that began in August, we didn't begin harvest until September 11 at East Bench and not until September 15 at Geyserville. Picking at Blasi, in the cooler microclimate of Chalk Hill, took place on September 29. Moderate temperatures throughout September extended harvest allowing more time to pick at a less hectic pace than usual. In fact, at over seven weeks total, the 2018 harvest turned out to be one of the most drawn out of recent years in Sonoma County. During fermentation, color came early and was plentiful after only two to three days of maceration. In many ways 2018 is the Goldilocks vintage — harvest began not too early, not too late; yields were not too little, not too much; weather was not too cool, not too hot. The wines exhibit excellent concentration and complex fruit at this early stage with many years ahead to fully develop.

ALMOST SOLD OUT  
DON'T DELAY

## WEEKEND GETAWAY

### OUR FIRST RIDGE WEEKEND GETAWAY

Our first Ridge Weekend Getaway will take place Father's Day weekend, June 18–21, at the Bodega Bay Lodge in Bodega Bay, California. Never before has there been a Ridge event of this magnitude. This all-access weekend will be an experience like no other. We will be taking over the entire property for this amazing three-day, members-only weekend.

There will be numerous events throughout the weekend, including special library tastings, winemaker workshops, wine conversations, off-site adventures and a special Saturday evening dinner capping off the unforgettable experience. Our executive and winemaking teams will be in attendance all weekend to celebrate, educate and enjoy the amazing Sonoma Coast with you.

## ORDER

| SPRING SELECTIONS                 | RETAIL  | MEMBER  | CASE (12+) |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|------------|
| 2018 <b>GEYSERVILLE</b>           | \$45.00 | \$40.50 | \$38.25    |
| 2018 <b>PASO ROBLES ZINFANDEL</b> | \$35.00 | \$31.50 | \$29.75    |
| 2018 <b>EAST BENCH ZINFANDEL</b>  | \$32.00 | \$28.80 | \$27.20    |
| 2018 <b>BLASI ZINFANDEL</b>       | \$35.00 | \$31.50 | \$29.75    |

To secure your reorder quantities and get more details, please visit [ridgewine.com](http://ridgewine.com) or call **408.867.3233**.

*\*Member discounts apply. Geyserville is also available in large format.*

Secure your spot by visiting [ridgewine.com/getaway](http://ridgewine.com/getaway)

RIDGE  
VINEYARDS

RIDGE  
VINEYARDS

Exceptional single-vineyard wines since 1962



## RIDGE 2018 GEYSERVILLE

68% ZINFANDEL  
20% CARIGNANE  
10% PETITE SIRAH  
2% ALICANTE BOUSCHET

**Winemaker's Notes:** Winter was dry, though storms in March brought significant rain. Summer remained cool, with warmth arriving just before harvest in mid-September. Fermentations took longer to fully extract color and tannin. Carignane and petite sirah showed exceptional quality, particularly when co-fermented within the old vine zinfandel parcels. This sensuous wine, with its rich fruit and wonderful complexity, will be enjoyable over the next twelve years. EB (10/19)



## RIDGE 2018 EAST BENCH ZINFANDEL

100% ZINFANDEL

**Winemaker's Notes:** The growing season at this hilltop vineyard began favorably with mild spring weather. Thanks to steady, warm weather throughout August, all seven parcels were ready to pick by early September. After fermenting each separately, we chose six for their exuberant fruit, elegant tannins and balanced acidity. Enjoyable upon release, this exemplary zinfandel will evolve over six to seven years. JO (10/19)



## RIDGE 2018 PASO ROBLES ZINFANDEL

100% ZINFANDEL

**Winemaker's Notes:** Winter was unusually dry. If not for heavy rain in March, the vines would have struggled through summer. Late season heat accelerated ripening for an early September harvest. Fermentations were slow and the wines reached dryness only after being pressed and sent to barrel. Fourteen months in oak has added exotic spice and integrated tannins with this wine's appealing fruit. It will be most enjoyable over the next seven years. EB (10/19)



### OPTIONAL SHIPMENT

## RIDGE 2018 BLASI ZINFANDEL

97% ZINFANDEL  
3% PETITE SIRAH

**Winemaker's Notes:** Mild weather during the growing season extended the ripening period at this old vine vineyard into late September. We picked three weeks later than usual. The slower pace of maturation allowed full flavor development with balanced acidity. To highlight the expression of fruit, new oak was limited to fifteen percent. Enjoyable as a young wine, this rich, elegant zinfandel will mature over the next six years. JO (6/19)