

RIDGE 2018 LYTTON ESTATE® PETITE SIRAH

DRY CREEK VALLEY
SONOMA COUNTY

97% PETITE SIRAH, 3% 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: 25 inches

Bloom: May

Weather: Rains in April and May helped the vines get through the summer. We were already into our zinfandel harvest when the Labor Day heat wave hit; we quickened our pace and finished at Lytton Springs by 18 October.

Harvest Dates: 14-28 September

Grapes: Average Brix 23.4°

WINEMAKING

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

Barrels: 100% air-dried American oak barrels (15% new, 10% one-year-old, 10% two-year-old, 30% three-year-old, and 5% five-year-old).

Aging: Fifteen 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; 73 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.



2018 Petite Sirah, bottled April 2020

This is our tenth vintage of petite sirah from Lytton Estate. The majority of the fruit comes from the clay-rich soils at Lytton West. Here, petite sirah thrives, producing small-berried clusters with intense color. All of the grapes were destemmed but left to ferment as whole berries to manage tannins and enhance fruit. This full-bodied wine will age nicely over the next fifteen years. JO (12/19)



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: 2-3 tons per acre.

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