

# RIDGE 2010

## PONZO

### ZINFANDEL

96% ZINFANDEL, 4% PETITE SIRAH  
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY 14.5% ALCOHOL BY VOLUME

#### HISTORY

Bob Ponzo has farmed these grapes for us in the Russian River Valley since 1999. Bob's vineyard, on deep gravelly loam soils four and a half miles south of Lytton Springs provides all the fruit for this zinfandel. The Russian River Valley's cooler microclimate ripens the grapes shortly after Lytton Springs and Geyserville. Small amounts of petite sirah are interplanted with zinfandel in the oldest block.

FIRST RIDGE PONZO: 2002

#### GROWING SEASON

Rainfall: 42 inches (above average)

Bloom: Late May

Weather: Cool, late spring; cold summer; two very hot days in August (24 & 25) caused fruit damage cutting yields by 50%.

#### VINTAGE

Harvest Dates: 4 - 12 October

Grapes: Average Brix 24.2°

Fermentation: No inoculation—natural primary and secondary. Rapid color and tannin extraction. Pressed at ten days.

Barrels: 100% air-dried american oak barrels (25% new, 30% one and two years old, 30% three and four years old, and 15% five year old)

Aging: Twelve months in barrel

#### WINEMAKING

All grapes hand harvested. Destemmed and crushed. Fermented on the native yeasts, followed by full malolactic on the naturally occurring bacteria. Minimum effective sulfur (35 ppm at crush, 151 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.

*2010 Ponzo Vineyard, bottled December 2011*  
This year, Bob Ponzo's zinfandel vines benefited from the cooler temperatures typical of the Russian River Valley. Despite late-August heat, morning fog extended ripening, adding complexity to the grapes' aromas and flavors. We harvested the Old Vines and Triangle blocks on October 4, followed by the younger Back Block a week later. After malolactic, we blind-tasted the three, choosing the older two for their exotic fruit. Twenty-five percent new oak adds finesse, complementing the tannins and natural acidity. This elegant zinfandel will be most enjoyable over the next five to seven years. JO (9/11)



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 (Triangle). Zinfandel planted 1999, 5.0 acres (Back Block).

Training: Majority head trained (no trellis), spur pruned. Back block cordon trained.

Yields: Two to three tons per acre before loss of 50% due to heat damage.

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