

RIDGE 2014 LYTTON ESTATE® PETITE SIRAH

DRY CREEK VALLEY 100% PETITE SIRAH
SONOMA COUNTY 13.9% 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 and until 2002 when we bottled portions of the petite sirah as a separate wine for a limited release, 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

GROWING SEASON

Rainfall: Eighteen inches (below average)

Bloom: Mid-May

Weather: Very dry and cold December and January; most of the rain fell February through April. Cool spring and early summer delayed ripening.

VINTAGE

Harvest Dates: 2 – 9 September

Grapes: Average Brix 23.8°

Fermentation: Natural primary and secondary; limited pump-overs to once daily and kept free run and press wines separate; pressed at seven days.

Barrels: 100% air-dried american oak barrels (20% new, 55% one and two years old, 25% three years old).

Aging: Fourteen months in barrel

WINEMAKING

Hand harvested, sustainably grown, estate grapes; destemmed and partially 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; 125 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.

2014 Petite Sirah, bottled February 2016

Though limited, welcome rain in February and March allowed the petite sirah to endure a third year of drought. Nature thinned the crop in early June, when several days above 100° caused sunburn in the clusters. After fermenting separately, six of the seven parcels were selected for their depth of flavor, quality of tannins, and sumptuous texture. One of the most elegant petite sirahs we have produced, it will evolve over the next ten years. JO (10/15)



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), spurpruned.

Yields: 1.5 tons per acre old vines; 3+ tons per acre young vines

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