

RIDGE 2014

PONZO

ZINFANDEL

96% ZINFANDEL, 4% PETITE SIRAH
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY 14.6% 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: Twenty-four inches (below average)

Bloom: Mid-May

Weather: Very dry and cold December, dry January; most of the rain fell in February through April. Cool spring followed by an early, warm summer.

VINTAGE

Harvest Dates: 22 September

Grapes: Average Brix 24.7°

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

Barrels: 100% air-dried american oak barrels (15% new, 30% one and two years old, 55% three and four years old)

Aging: Twelve months in barrel

WINEMAKING

Hand harvested, Bob Ponzo vineyard grapes; destemmed and crushed; fermented on the native yeasts, followed by full malolactic on the naturally occurring bacteria; 0.5g/L calcium carbonate; oak from barrel aging; minimum effective sulfur for this wine (35 ppm at crush, 65 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 Zinfandel, Ponzo Vineyard, bottled 12/15

Warm weather hastened ripening on our one Russian River vineyard for a September harvest. Aggressive thinning in the cordon pruned Back Block concentrated flavors; combined with Old Vines, it was racked to barrel. Oak aging lends spice to the wine's plentiful red fruit, and firm acid maintains balance. Soft and elegant, this fine zinfandel is accessible as a young wine, and will be at its best over the next five to six years. JO (8/15)



Ponzo Vineyard is located in Russian River Valley, south of Healdsburg on Old Redwood Highway.

Soils: Deep, gravelly loam.

Vines: Mixed zinfandel and petite sirah, planted c. 1952, 4.0 acres (older 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



RIDGE
VINEYARDS

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