

Ridge Vineyards

A timeless expression of Dry Creek Valley, this Zinfandel-based blend delivers intense dark fruit, structured tannins, and refreshing acidity, ensuring both power and elegance.

RIDGE
VINEYARDS



Lytton Springs 2022

California, USA

Region and Vineyards

Lytton Springs Vineyard is located at the meeting point of **Dry Creek Valley** and **Alexander Valley** in Sonoma County, just north of Healdsburg. This historic site is planted primarily to **Zinfandel, Petite Sirah, Carignane, and Alicante Bouschet**, with some vines dating back to **1901 and 1910**. The vineyard features varied soils, predominantly gravelly clay and gravelly clay loam on the hillsides, which contribute to the wine's structure and mineral-driven character.

The vineyard is dry-farmed and organically cultivated, with head-trained, spur-pruned vines yielding a mere two tons per acre. These low yields concentrate flavor and complexity, creating wines of remarkable intensity. The 2022 vintage was shaped by an early spring and mild weather, ensuring uniform fruit set. However, a **May frost** slightly reduced yields in certain blocks. The combination of rich fruit, vibrant acidity, and firm tannins defines this wine's exceptional balance.

Winemaking

Grapes were hand-harvested and organically grown, reflecting Ridge's commitment to minimal intervention winemaking. The fruit was destemmed and crushed, then fermented using **100% native yeasts**. Full malolactic fermentation occurred naturally, preserving freshness and enhancing texture.

Aging took place over **16 months** in air-dried American oak barrels, with a combination of 17% new oak and the remainder in progressively older barrels. This gentle oak influence integrates seamlessly, adding subtle spice and structure while allowing the vineyard's character to shine. The wine was bottled in January 2024 with minimal sulfur and filtration, ensuring purity and longevity.

Alcohol :14,30 %

Composition: 67% Zinfandel, 19%
Petite Syrah, 11% Carignan, 3%
Alicante Bouschet



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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep ruby red with hints of purple, reflecting its youthful vibrancy.
- **Aroma:** Complex layers of blackberry, dark cherry, and plum, complemented by spice notes of cinnamon and black pepper, with a touch of cedar and vanilla from oak aging.
- **Palate:** Bold yet balanced, showcasing juicy dark fruit, lively acidity, and well-integrated tannins. Notes of blueberry, licorice, and baking spices evolve into a long, structured finish. The firm tannins ensure excellent aging potential over the next ten to fifteen years.

Did you know?

Ridge Vineyards first produced **Lytton Springs in 1972**, using grapes from century-old vines. The vineyard was originally part of a single property owned by **"Captain" William Litton in the 1870s**, but by 1903, the name had evolved to "Lytton." Ridge eventually purchased both the **eastern and western vineyard parcels** in the early 1990s, securing its legacy as a benchmark site for old-vine Zinfandel.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Slow-braised short ribs with rosemary and garlic** – The richness of the meat is beautifully complemented by the wine's dark fruit and firm tannins.
- **Porcini mushroom risotto** – The wine's earthy spice notes harmonize with the dish's umami flavors.
- **Roasted duck with cherry reduction** – The wine's acidity and red fruit character enhance the savory-sweet complexity of the dish.
- **Aged Manchego cheese** – The nutty, caramelized flavors of the cheese contrast elegantly with the wine's dark fruit and spice.

Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 96 Points (2022)



The densely packed nose of this legendary old vine field blend of Zin, Petite Sirah, Carignane, and Alicante gives aromas of crushed blackberry, purple flowers and rich earthy spices, while the palate brings black cherry, olive and licorice flavors in a framework of opulent tannin that will age effortlessly for more than a decade. Cellar Selection

Wine Spectator (WS) : 95 Points (2022)



Like a beast that's been tamed, this red is genteel and polished on the outside but dark and fervent deep down, with expressive flavors of blackberry, briar patch, savory anise and pepper. Zinfandel, Petite Sirah, Carignane and Alicante Bouschet.



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Decanter (DCT) : 95 Points (2022)

This bottling marks the 50th Lytton Springs from Ridge, and appropriately, the wine is beguiling and intense—pure Americana and emblematic of Ridge's commitment to the heritage varieties and vines in California. Lytton Springs is home to 100-plus-year-old Zinfandel vines interplanted with Petite Sirah and Carignane, among a few other varieties. This bottling has become a standard bearer for the notion of California Zinfandel: smoky clove spices, toasted cinnamon sticks, bramble fruits and spicy black plums. The palate shows intense concentration, red and black plums, black pepper, muddled mint leaves and an undertone of dried anise and thyme. Delicious and built to age.

