

Ridge Vineyards

A masterful field blend from century-old vines, this Zinfandel captures Sonoma Valley's history with layers of dark fruit, spice, and remarkable freshness, promising elegance and longevity.

RIDGE
VINEYARDS

Pagani Ranch Zinfandel 2021

California, USA

Region and Vineyards

Pagani Ranch lies on the western side of Sonoma Valley, in Sonoma County, at an elevation of 30 to 45 meters. The soils here are gravelly clay loams, lending both structure and freshness to the wines. The site is particularly cool for the variety, often the last to be harvested, though in 2022, early ripening led to picking between 13 and 17 September.

The vineyard itself is a living monument: thirty acres were planted between 1896 and 1922, primarily to Zinfandel interplanted with petite sirah, carignane, and alicante bouschet. Six acres were replanted in 2013 with zinfandel and petite sirah. These head-trained vines, with yields averaging 3 tons per acre, produce grapes of remarkable concentration and complexity. The younger vines contribute fruit-driven vibrancy, while the venerable old vines offer depth, texture, and distinctive spice.

Winemaking

The 2022 vintage is a **field blend of 82% Zinfandel, 9% Alicante Bouschet, 5% Petite Sirah, and 4% Mataro (Mourvèdre)**. Grapes were hand-harvested, destemmed, and crushed before undergoing natural primary and malolactic fermentations, with pump-overs of a floating cap.

Aged for 14 months in 100% air-dried American oak barrels, the wine saw 15% new oak, with the balance divided among one-to-three-year-old and neutral barrels. This careful regime ensures structure without overshadowing fruit expression. Bottled in February 2024, the wine carries **14.4% alcohol**, a **pH of 3.51**, and a **total acidity of 7.65 g/L**, highlighting Ridge's philosophy of minimal intervention and terroir-driven authenticity.



Alcohol :14,40 %

Composition: 82% Zinfandel, 9%
Alicante Bouschet, 5% Petite Syrah,
4% Mataro



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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep ruby with youthful purple reflections.
- **Aroma:** Expressive nose of blackberry compote, black cherry, and wild plum, supported by hints of star anise, violets, and cocoa, with a subtle oak-derived vanilla lift.
- **Palate:** Concentrated and layered, showing ripe bramble fruit, mulberry, and licorice, framed by firm yet polished tannins. A vibrant acidity drives freshness, while savory undertones of spice and earth add complexity. The finish is long, balanced, and elegantly structured.

Did you know?

The Pagani family has farmed this vineyard for **four generations**, preserving vines that survived both Prohibition and the Depression—periods during which most vineyards were abandoned. Its survival testifies to the exceptional quality of this site and the family's commitment to its heritage.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Grilled lamb chops** with rosemary and garlic: the wine's spice and acidity cut through the richness of the meat.
- **Slow-cooked beef short ribs:** the depth and tannic backbone harmonize with the dish's savory intensity.
- **Wild mushroom risotto:** earthy flavors complement the wine's dark fruit and subtle herbal notes.
- **Aged Manchego cheese:** the nutty, firm character enhances the wine's structure and lingering finish.



Jeb Dunnuck (JD) : 94 Points (2021)

A blend of 90% Zinfandel and 5% each of Petite Sirah and Alicante Bouschet, the 2021 Zinfandel Pagani Ranch has textbook Zinfandel sweet red and black plum, sandalwood, cigar, candied orange-driven aromatics as well as a beautifully layered, textured style on the palate. I love its overall balance, it has ripe, polished tannins, and a just a pure, layered, complex style with so much to love.

