



RIDGE
VINEYARDS

Ridge Vineyards

A bold and expressive Zinfandel crafted from century-old vines, this wine captures the vibrant character and heritage of Sonoma Valley's historic Pagani Ranch.

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Pagani Ranch Zinfandel 2021

California, USA

Region and Vineyards

Pagani Ranch is located on the western edge of Sonoma Valley in Sonoma County, at an elevation between 30 and 45 meters above sea level. The vineyard is often shrouded in fog well into the afternoon, which tempers the region's natural warmth and contributes to a long, slow growing season. This cool microclimate allows grapes to retain freshness and develop nuanced aromas while building depth and structure.

The vineyard's soils are composed of **gravelly clay loam**, offering excellent drainage and moderate fertility. Originally planted between **1896 and 1922**, the site includes interplanted blocks of Zinfandel, Petite Sirah, Alicante Bouschet, and Carignan—traditional companions in California field blends. Six additional acres were replanted with Zinfandel and Petite Sirah in 2013. Vines are **head-trained and dry-farmed**, yielding a naturally low crop of approximately 3.2 tons per acre, which intensifies flavor and texture. The vineyard has been stewarded by the same family for four generations, a testament to both the site's quality and enduring legacy.

Winemaking

The 2021 vintage was marked by low rainfall and warm conditions, which stressed the vines and led to a smaller crop with **concentrated fruit**. Grapes were hand-harvested between October 7th and 16th, with younger Zinfandel blocks picked first, followed by the old vines and companion varieties. The fruit was destemmed and crushed, then fermented using only **native yeasts**. Malolactic fermentation occurred naturally, adding roundness and complexity.

The wine was aged for **14 months in 100% air-dried American oak barrels**, with only 3% new wood to avoid dominating the wine's character. Ridge's minimalist approach includes the use of **minimal sulfur and no fining**, with gentle filtration at bottling. The final blend is **90% Zinfandel, 5% Petite Sirah, and 5% Alicante Bouschet**, capturing the full field-blend expression typical of the vineyard's heritage.

95
vinous



Alcohol :14,60 %

Composition: 90% Zinfandel, 5%
Petite Syrah, 5% Alicante Bouschet



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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep ruby with violet edges, clear and vibrant.
- **Aroma:** Aromatically generous with ripe blackberry, raspberry compote, and red plum, accented by black pepper, licorice, and hints of vanilla and sweet tobacco.
- **Palate:** Energetic and layered, offering a medley of dark fruits, cherry liqueur, and baking spices. The acidity is bright and lively, balanced by a supple mid-palate and well-integrated tannins. The finish is long and mouth-coating, with lingering notes of cocoa and dried herbs.

Did you know?

Pagani Ranch has been producing Zinfandel for over a century and survived both Prohibition and the Great Depression—remarkable feats that underscore the vineyard's exceptional quality. Ridge Vineyards first vinified grapes from this site in **1991**, and it has since become one of their flagship single-vineyard expressions. The vines are some of the oldest still in production in Sonoma Valley, and their resilience continues to shape the character of this storied wine.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Grilled lamb chops with rosemary:** The wine's spice and structure complement the rich, herbal profile of the dish.
- **Barbecue ribs with sweet and smoky sauce:** A classic pairing for Zinfandel's bold fruit and vibrant acidity.
- **Wild mushroom ragù over polenta:** Earthy and savory components highlight the wine's subtle depth.
- **Aged Manchego or Dry Jack cheese:** Nutty and firm cheeses enhance the wine's texture and red-fruit profile.

Vinous (Antonio Galloni) (VN) : 95 Points (2021)



The 2021 Zinfandel Pagani Ranch is a wine of tremendous stature. Vertical and composed in bearing, the 2021 has a ton to offer, but is also a bit reserved today. Time in the glass brings out a mesmerizing range of red/purplish fruit, spice, cedar, new leather, tobacco, mocha and dried flowers. Pagani Ranch remains a beacon for Sonoma County Zinfandel-based field blends. This is a fine rendition. (AG)

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.





Pagani Ranch Zinfandel 2021



Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 94 Points (2021)

*Vivid, focused raspberries and red currants light up the aroma of this well-balanced, elegant wine before cooked strawberries and red plums fill the palate. Light toasty, oaky accents of vanilla and chocolate lend a bit of extra interest. *Cellar Selection* (JG)*



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