

Home Ranch Zinfandel

- ◆ **Q: WHEN WAS THE RANCH PLANTED? WHAT IS THE AVERAGE AGE OF THE VINES?**
A: The ranch was planted in 1895. On average, the vines are 70 years old.
- ◆ **Q: IS HOME RANCH 100% ZINFANDEL?**
A: The vineyard is planted to mostly Zinfandel, but there is some Carignane interplanted that is harvested separately.
- ◆ **Q: WHICH ZINFANDEL CLONES ARE USED?**
A: There are no known clones, but we refer to this as our “Home Ranch Clone”.
- ◆ **Q: HOW DID THE VINES SURVIVE PHYLLOXERA?**
A: The Zinfandel is planted on St. George rootstock, which is resistant to Phylloxera.
- ◆ **Q: IS THE RANCH DRY-FARMED?**
A: Though the ranch was fully dry-farmed until 1998, we have since added a drip irrigation system to replenish moisture to the vines in high-stress weather situations.
- ◆ **Q: IS THE RANCH HAND-HARVESTED?**
A: Yes - there really is no other way to harvest 100+ year-old, head-trained vines. Also, this ensures that the very best quality of fruit arrives at the winery upon delivery. Harvesting starts very early in the morning (around 2 am), taking advantage of the cool night air.
- ◆ **Q: ARE SUSTAINABLE MEASURES SUCH AS COVER CROPS USED?**
A: Large biomass cover crops are used to mitigate rainfall and promote water movement down into the soil. They are also used to enrich the soil with plenty of natural organic matter. Owl boxes and raptor perches are used to help naturally control rodents. Grasses are left to host beneficial insects.



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- ◆ **Q: WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF ROW ORIENTATION OR VINE SPACING?**
A: The vineyard is planted 7x7 with the east-to-west row orientation. When this vineyard was planted in 1895, it was cross cultivated because there were no herbicides for weed abatement and no irrigation, so the cross cultivation was used to remove the weeds and seal the moisture in the ground.
- ◆ **Q: HOW AND TO WHAT DEGREE IS THIS WINE FILTERED OR FINED?**
A: No fining is done, but we do filter to remove the yeast.
- ◆ **Q: HOW LONG CAN I AGE THIS WINE BEFORE OPENING?**
A: We recommend four to seven years.
- ◆ **Q: WHAT TYPE OF FOOD SHOULD I SERVE WITH THIS WINE?**
A: Home Ranch Zinfandel pairs beautifully with beef, game, red sauces, spicy foods and is especially delicious alongside blue cheese.
- ◆ **Q: WHAT TYPE OF OAK REGIME IS USED FOR THIS WINE?**
A: The wine is aged for 14 months in French oak barrels, 25% of which are new.

