
RIDGE

VINEYARDS



Wine Advocate Reviews – August 2012 (Issue #202)

2009 Ridge Cabernet Sauvignon Estate

Ridge 

A Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Red Table wine from Santa Cruz Mountains, Central Coast, California, USA

Source	Reviewer	Rating	Maturity	Current (Release) Cost
Wine Advocate #202 Aug 2012	Antonio Galloni	<u>92</u>	Drink: 2013 - 2021	\$50 (40)
<p>The 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon Estate (77% Cabernet Sauvignon and 23% Merlot) is gorgeous. Dark red berries, grilled herbs, spice box, cedar and tobacco are some of the notes that flesh out in the radiant, expressive Cabernet Sauvignon Estate. This attractive, medium-bodied Cabernet Sauvignon can be enjoyed with minimum cellaring. Think of it as a baby Monte Bello to drink while the 2009 Monte Bello ages. Anticipated maturity: 2013-2021.</p> <p>Indiana Jones and I have one thing in common – a fear of snakes. That is why every time I see the sign in the Ridge parking lot that reads “Beware of rattlesnakes,” I get a little uneasy. So it’s quickly into the tasting room for me. Winemaker Eric Baugher and his team have prepared a great tasting covering all of the Ridge classics, plus a few smaller-production bottlings I am tasting for the first time. This is a sublime set of new releases from one of this country’s greatest heritage wineries. It’s hard to know where to start, but the highlights are the 2009 Monte Bello, followed by the 2010, which will be released this year, plus some of the Zinfandels and Zinfandel-based wines. The 2010 harvest was not an easy one. The summer was very cold, as it was throughout California. Ridge was severely affected by August heat spikes that were crippling for Zinfandel. The wines that were bottled are the result of a severe selection of the best fruit that survived the heat.</p> <p>Tel. (408) 867-3233</p>				

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2010 Ridge Chardonnay

Ridge 

A Chardonnay Dry White Table wine from Santa Cruz, Central Coast, California, USA

Source	Reviewer	Rating	Maturity	Current (Release) Cost
Wine Advocate #202 Aug 2012	Antonio Galloni	<u>90</u>	Drink: 2013 - 2020	\$32-\$45 (40)
<p>The 2010 Chardonnay Estate is a beautiful, precise wine laced with citrus zest, crushed rocks and a hint of spice from the American oak. In 2010, the Chardonnay stands out for its energy and tension. It needs another year or two to settle down, but it is already striking in its beauty. Anticipated maturity: 2013-2020.</p>				

2010 Ridge Chardonnay Monte Bello

Ridge 

A Chardonnay Dry White Table wine from Santa Cruz Mountains, Central Coast, California, USA

Source	Reviewer	Rating	Maturity	Current (Release) Cost
Wine Advocate #202 Aug 2012	Antonio Galloni	<u>92</u>	Drink: 2013 - 2020	\$43
<p>The 2010 Chardonnay Montebello Estate Vineyard wraps around the palate with layers of deep, expressive fruit. It shows lovely depth in an understated style. There is a level of textural depth and creaminess that isn't found in the straight Estate bottling, but the 2010 never strays from the classic, restrained Ridge style. This is gorgeous. Anticipated maturity: 2013-2020.</p> <p>(Not yet released)</p>				

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2010 Ridge Geyserville Proprietary Red Wine

Ridge 

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from Sonoma, North Coast, California, USA

Source	Reviewer	Rating	Maturity	Current (Release) Cost
Wine Advocate #202 Aug 2012	Antonio Galloni	<u>88</u>	Drink: 2013 - 2020	\$29-\$50 (37)
<p>The 2010 Geyserville comes across as very sweet. Dried prunes, cooked cherries, flowers and licorice are some of the notes that emerge from the glass. Today, the 2010 is a bit disjointed. The fruit, the Zinfandel in particular, shows the clear effects of the heat spikes. In 2010, the blend is 64% Zinfandel, 20% Carignane, 12% Petite Sirah, 2% Alicante Bouschet and 2% Mataro Mourvedre. Anticipated maturity: 2013-2020.</p>				

2011 Ridge Geyserville Proprietary Red Wine

Ridge 

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from Sonoma, North Coast, California, USA

Source	Reviewer	Rating	Maturity	Current (Release) Cost
Wine Advocate #202 Aug 2012	Antonio Galloni	<u>(91-93)</u>	Drink: 2014 - 2031	
<p>The 2011 Geyserville impresses for its silkiness and texture. Sweet dark berries, flowers and mint are some of the notes that take shape in the glass. The 2011 is a decidedly mid-weight, feminine style of Geyserville. Floral notes reappear on the finish, adding lift and vibrancy. The 2011 should drink well upon release and also age. To make the 2011, Ridge was especially selective and fewer parcels made it into the blend than normal, especially with the Petite Sirah. The blend is 80% Zinfandel, 16% Carignane, 3% Petite Sirah and 1% Alicante Bouschet. Anticipated maturity: 2014-2031</p>				

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2010 Ridge Lytton Springs Proprietary Red Wine

Ridge 

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from Sonoma, North Coast, California, USA

Source	Reviewer	Rating	Maturity	Current (Release) Cost
Wine Advocate #202 Aug 2012	Antonio Galloni	<u>93+</u>	Drink: 2015 - 2030	\$44 (37)
<p>The 2010 Lytton Springs (67% Zinfandel, 23% Petite Sirah, 7% Carignane and 3% Mataro) is fascinating because it seems to have handled the heat spikes far better than the Geyserville. This is first and foremost Lytton Springs, and a product of the 2010 vintage second. Firm tannins frame an expressive core of dark red cherries, flowers and sweet herbs. The inner perfume of Zinfandel resonates on the finish. The 2010 needs time to soften, but it is quite beautiful. Lytton Spring is a much larger site than Geyserville, the choices for lots are much greater, which affords the winemaking team a great deal of flexibility in crafting the final blends. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2030.</p>				

2011 Ridge Lytton Springs Proprietary Red Wine

Ridge 

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from Sonoma, North Coast, California, USA

Source	Reviewer	Rating	Maturity	Current (Release) Cost
Wine Advocate #202 Aug 2012	Antonio Galloni	<u>(92-94)</u>	Drink: 2015 - 2031	
<p>The 2011 Lytton Springs is an intriguing wine. It is at once quite tannic, but also medium in body, as most wines are in this vintage. The structure of Petite Sirah is felt in the wine's tannin. Dusty red cherries, flowers and sweet herbs wrap around the finish. There is a translucency to the 2011 that is highly appealing. In 2011, only 50% of candidate parcels were used in the final blend. The 2011 is 82% Zinfandel, 16% Petite Sirah and 2% Carignane. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2031.</p>				

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2009 Ridge Merlot Estate

Ridge 

A Merlot Dry Red Table wine from
Santa Cruz Mountains, Central Coast, California, USA

Source	Reviewer	Rating	Maturity	Current (Release) Cost
Wine Advocate #202 Aug 2012	Antonio Galloni	<u>90</u>	Drink: 2012 - 2019	\$40 (40)
<p>The 2009 Merlot Estate is a very beautiful wine that reflects more Santa Cruz Mountains personality than varietal character. Dark red fruit, tobacco and mint are woven together in this bright, generous, beautifully articulated wine. The Merlot is made from two parcels planted at 1,300 and 2,000 feet of elevation in the Jimsomare property, which is now part of the Ridge estate. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2019.</p>				

2009 Ridge Monte Bello

Ridge 

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from
Santa Cruz Mountains, Central Coast, California, USA

Source	Reviewer	Rating	Maturity	Current (Release) Cost
Wine Advocate #202 Aug 2012	Antonio Galloni	<u>98</u>	Drink: 2019 - 2049	\$100-\$184 (150)
<p>The 2009 Monte Bello, 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot and 6% Petit Verdot is simply magnificent. Layers of dark red fruit, flowers, spices and graphite are all woven together in this utterly impeccable wine. The 2009 is an especially huge, intense Monte Bello, yet a sexy, silky core of fruit lies within its imposing frame. Everything comes together in this glorious, radiant wine. Last year the 2009 had some pretty stiff competition from the 2010, but today it is simply firing on all cylinders. Eric Baugher describes 2009 as a year with cold weather early on, followed by heat in early June and July. The fruit was brought in on October 12, just before an intense downpour swept through the region. There is a purity and silkiness supported by structure in the 2009 that is impossible not to admire. Simply put, this is another utterly magnificent, towering masterpiece from Ridge. Anticipated maturity: 2019-2049.</p>				

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2010 Ridge Monte Bello

Ridge 

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from
Santa Cruz Mountains, Central Coast, California, USA

Source	Reviewer	Rating	Maturity	Current (Release) Cost
Wine Advocate #202 Aug 2012	Antonio Galloni	<u>96+</u>	Drink: 2020 - 2040	
<p>The just-bottled 2010 Monte Bello combines pure structure and power in a rich, full-bodied style for this wine. Waves of dark red fruit, crushed rocks, flowers, mint and grilled herbs wrap around the long, insistent finish. Today, the 2010 is slightly more reticent than it was last year, but the wine comes to life the more it sits in the glass. Always classy, the 2010 Monte Bello impresses for its impeccable balance. Count me among those who will be thrilled to own this magnificent California classic. The 2010 is a decidedly virile, powerful Monte Bello, qualities winemaker Eric Baugher attributes to a year with a very cold summer and periods of heat that arrived only towards the tail end of the growing season. In 2010, the blend is 74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot and 2% Cabernet Franc. Anticipated maturity: 2020-2040.</p>				

2011 Ridge Monte Bello

Ridge 

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from
Santa Cruz Mountains, Central Coast, California, USA

Source	Reviewer	Rating	Maturity	Current (Release) Cost
Wine Advocate #202 Aug 2012	Antonio Galloni	<u>(93-95)</u>	Drink: 2018 - 2031	\$103-\$135
<p>The 2011 Monte Bello (87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc) emerges from the glass with tobacco, grilled herbs, smoke, incense and plums melding together in this soft, beautifully textured Monte Bello. The 2011 is a wine of exceptional textural finesse. The 100% new oak is totally integrated. In 2011, Ridge used a total of 18 of a possible 24 lots for the final blend. The presence of 88% Cabernet Sauvignon is the highest since the 1980s. I expect the 2011 to be a relatively early drinking Monte Bello, but time will be the judge. Anticipated maturity: 2018-2031.</p> <p>(Not yet released)</p>				