
RIDGE

VINEYARDS

International WINE REPORT

Tasting Notes – September 2012

2009 Ridge Vineyards Monte Bello

97+

The 2009 Ridge Monte Bello is a world-class wine of epic proportions. It delivers top quality pure black fruits, cassis, pencil shavings, graphite, charcoal, coffee and even fresh floral. This wine has it all, balance, amazing precision and focus, depth, along with a seamless structure and an ultra-long, tight gripping finish. While still is it's infancy, it is hard to find many flaws in the wine right now. It's not everyday you come across a wine of this caliber, and while you can get away with approaching this now, it should also continue to evolve for a quarter century for those willing to wait. The composition consists of 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot and 6% Petit Verdot. (Best 2013-2032).

2009 Ridge Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

93+

The 2009 Ridge Estate Cabernet Sauvignon delivers lots of sweet cassis, ripe black cherry, dried herbs, tar, pain grille, backed up by beautiful spring floral and fresh mineral. This shows precise focus and balance with polished dusty tannins leading into the long supple finish. This Cabernet is delicious and really delivers, while approachable now, will also last well over a decade. 77% cabernet sauvignon with 23% merlot. (Drink 2012-2023)

2010 Ridge Vineyards Geyserville

93

The 2010 Geyserville is powerful, exotic and classy. This amazing wine offers notes of sweet currants, blueberries, wild red berries as well as pepper, spiced beef, molasses, floral and fresh mineral mixed in. It's Caressing, silky and polished with a long pepper-tinged finish. Drink this now or watch it

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2010 Ridge Vineyards Lytton Springs

91

evolve over the next decade. The blend is composed of 64% Zinfandel, 20% Carignane, 12% Petite Sirah, 2% Alicante Bouschet and 2% Mataro (Mourvedre). (Drink 2012-2022)

The 2010 Lytton Springs doses out plenty of raspberry and blackberry fruit backed up by spices, pepper, graphite, underbrush, beef tartare, and chocolate-licorice twist. This is balanced with a solid structure and a long finish. I think this wine is built to last a decade with some room for improvement as fleshes out. Composed of 67% zinfandel, 23% petite sirah, 7% carignane, 3% mataro(mourvedre). (Best 2013-2020)

2010 Ridge Paso Robles Zinfandel

90

The 2010 Paso Robles 100% Zinfandel from Ridge brings fresh raspberry, blueberry cobbler, spices, pepper with some crushed rose petals and eucalyptus notes. Medium to full body, with nice underlying minerality and acidity keeping things fresh. Some tart berries make an appearance on the finish. (Best 2013-2018)

About Ridge Vineyards

The Philosophy at Ridge is respect for the natural process that transforms fresh grapes into wine, and for the 19th century model of guiding that process with minimal intervention. When you have great vineyards that produce high-quality grapes of distinct, individual character, this approach is not only environmentally and socially responsible, it's also the best way to consistently make fine wine.

Ridge believes to make the finest wines, you must start with great vineyards. Ridge was blessed with the 125-year-old Monte Bello vineyard (abandoned after Prohibition), and the cabernet blocks (replanted in the late 1940s). These vines produced their *Monte Bello* wines from 1959 to 1969. To supplement that limited production while they continued to re-plant the rest of the abandoned cabernet vineyards, Ridge turned to California's heritage of pre-Prohibition zinfandel vineyards, making a 1964 from vines planted lower on the ridge in the 1890s. Two years later, in 1966, Ridge made their first *Geyserville* Zinfandel from Sonoma County vines planted in 1882. By the 1970s, the superb quality and immediate appeal of their old-vine zinfandels was clear. They perfectly complemented their cabernet, whose full complexity developed only with age. Together, the two have become the focus at Ridge. Ridge

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has made a Geyserville in every vintage, and took over farming the vineyard in 1990. 1972 marked the first *Lytton Springs*, from vines planted in 1902. Ridge purchased that vineyard in 1991. They, with Monte Bello, make up the estate vineyards. Farming them sustainably, Ridge has certified as organic the majority of blocks at all three.

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