

GOVERNMENT WARNING: (1) ACCORDING TO THE SURGEON GENERAL, WOMEN SHOULD NOT DRINK ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES DURING PREGNANCY BECAUSE OF THE RISK OF BIRTH DEFECTS. (2) CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IMPAIRS YOUR ABILITY TO DRIVE A CAR OR OPERATE MACHINERY, AND MAY CAUSE HEALTH PROBLEMS. CONTAINS SULFITES



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**Monte Bello Vineyard
Yields, Estate Merlot Parcels:
23 tons from 9½ acres**

2012 Estate Merlot, bottled August 2014

Though winter's abrupt end left the vines short on rain, near-perfect summer weather ripened the grapes for a mid-October harvest. During primary fermentation, color and tannin developed fully. After pressing, each lot started natural malolactic in tank; a quarter of the way through, we racked to new barrels. After seventeen weeks on their lees, the wines were blind-tasted for assemblage. All showed beautifully, and were combined. Twenty-one months in barrel has softened the tannins. This delicious wine will be most enjoyable over the next six to eight years. EB (5/14)

Ingredients: Hand harvested, sustainably grown grapes; indigenous yeasts; naturally occurring malolactic bacteria; 0.9% water addition; calcium carbonate; oak from barrel aging; minimum effective SO₂. PD (5/14)

408.867.3233 750 mL www.ridgewine.com

**RIDGE 2012
MERLOT
ESTATE**

100% MERLOT MONTE BELLO VINEYARD
SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS 13.5% ALCOHOL BY VOLUME
GROWN, PRODUCED AND BOTTLED BY RIDGE VINEYARDS
18100 MONTE BELLO ROAD, CUPERTINO, CALIFORNIA 95014