



# RIDGE VINEYARDS

408.867.3233 • www.ridgevine.com

## TO ORDER

To secure your reorder quantities, please visit our website or call us at **408.867.3233**. As always, member discounts apply. Estate Cabernet is available in large format.

Wine	Retail Price	Member Price 1-11 btls	Case Price 12+ btls
2012 Estate Cabernet	\$50.00	\$45.00	\$42.50
2012 Estate Merlot	\$50.00	\$45.00	\$42.50
2013 Estate Chardonnay	\$50.00	\$45.00	\$42.50
2012 Monte Bello	N/A. Public Release Sept. 1 <sup>st</sup>		

More details at [www.ridgevine.com](http://www.ridgevine.com)

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### ASSEMBLAGE MONTE BELLO Saturday and Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> 11am – 5pm

The assemblage tastings continue as guests at our April event try barrel samples of the 2014 Monte Bello first assemblage.

*This event is open to Z List, ATP and Collector members (a total of 4 attendees per membership).*

### FINAL MONTE BELLO ASSEMBLAGE TASTING Saturday & Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> 11am – 5pm

Taste the results of the second and final assemblage of the 2014 Monte Bello. This wine will be bottled in late spring 2015 and shipped in 2017.

*This event is for Monte Bello Collector members only (a total of 4 attendees per membership).*

Space is very limited with events typically selling out in advance. Registration is required for each event. For more information visit: [www.ridgevine.com/events](http://www.ridgevine.com/events)

## 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



With the 2012 vintage of Monte Bello, Ridge celebrates 50 years of fine winemaking. The first vines were planted and construction begun on our stone and redwood winery in 1886. The first vintage of Monte Bello was in 1892, one hundred and twenty years ago. However, the winery closed during Prohibition, reopened with repeal, but closed again and the vineyards abandoned definitively in the early 1940s. In 1959 the Ridge partners purchased eight acres of cabernet replanted in the late '40s and forty acres of abandoned vineyard. They rebanded as Ridge Vineyards and made the superb vintage of 1962.

For more information please visit: [www.ridgevine.com/MB50](http://www.ridgevine.com/MB50)



1962 to 2012  
**50<sup>th</sup>**  
ANNIVERSARY



# RIDGE VINEYARDS

## MONTE BELLO COLLECTOR

### SPRING 2015

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# RIDGE 2012 CABERNET SAUVIGNON ESTATE

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76% CABERNET SAUVIGNON, 24% MERLOT

**Winemaker's Notes:** A warm, dry, growing season began a month early, and fine weather continued through summer for an early October harvest. Rapid extraction prompted us to shorten fermentation times and frequency of pump-overs. Once natural malolactics finished in barrel, we chose lots with great fruit definition and elegant structure for the assemblage, and returned the wine to barrel for continued aging. In late fall, a complex press lot was included, providing additional depth and richness. Nineteen months in barrel has softened tannins and clarified the wine. Sensuous and enjoyable now, it will continue to develop over the next twelve to fifteen years. EB (5/14)



In 1886 the first Monte Bello vineyards were planted and construction on the winery begun. With Prohibition the vineyards were abandoned. In the late forties a few blocks were replanted and those vines produced the first Ridge Monte Bello in 1962. As more of the abandoned parcels were replanted and matured, it was clear that a number of them consistently made a more accessible wine that developed its full complexity earlier and by 1979 these were being combined as the "Santa Cruz Mountains." With the 2008 vintage the name of this stylistically distinct wine became the Estate Cabernet Sauvignon, the principal varietal and the Monte Bello vineyard as its source.

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# RIDGE 2012 MERLOT ESTATE

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100% MERLOT

**Winemaker's Notes:** 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)



Ridge first made merlot in 1974 from the Point, the highest, most exposed block on the Monte Bello vineyard at an elevation of 2600'. Originally, we wanted to see if the varietal could match the quality of, and be included in, the Monte Bello. Once satisfied that it could, we planted more merlot over the years as space and resources allowed. From 1975 on, it has been a part of the Monte Bello whenever assemblage tastings so indicated. As the younger plantings matured, it became apparent that not only did merlot complement the Monte Bello, but also had the structure and complexity to merit a separate bottling.

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# RIDGE 2013 CHARDONNAY ESTATE

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100% CHARDONNAY

**Winemaker's Notes:** A dry, mild winter left the vines short of water. Fortunately, summer fog cooled the nights, reducing stress. The grapes from each parcel were whole-cluster pressed and barrel-fermented as separate lots. During malolactic, the lees were stirred twice a month for added complexity. In assemblage tastings, we selected wines from seven small parcels, then racked to tank for natural settling and clarity. Fresh and wonderfully aromatic, this fine chardonnay shows the elegance of firm acidity. It will be at its best over the next six to eight years. EB (9/14)



Ridge produced its first chardonnay in 1962 from fully-mature vines planted in the late 1940s on the Monte Bello estate vineyard. Production never exceeded ten barrels, and Monte Bello chardonnay was sold principally at the winery. By 1985, the old vines were producing less than a half-ton per acre and were taken out. The younger vines planted in the '70s, provide the majority of grapes today. Initially these newer plantings were on the "lower" vineyard — not yet farmed as part of the Monte Bello estate — so the wine was called "Santa Cruz Mountains." The vines are long since part of the estate; and the wine is designated Ridge Estate Chardonnay.

2012 Futures Purchased in 2013

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# RIDGE 2012 MONTE BELLO

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64% CABERNET SAUVIGNON, 22% MERLOT, 8% CABERNET FRANC, 6% PETIT VERDOT

**Winemaker's Notes:** A dry winter ended abruptly in February, as we raced to finish pruning before new growth emerged. That early start to the growing season, and late September heat, threatened to over-ripen the fruit. With help from our Sonoma crew, we harvested in a record sixteen days. Despite limiting pump-overs and pressing early, tannins were quick to extract, producing one of our most structured vintages. In tastings, 19 of 24 parcels were selected for this exceptional wine. Balanced and appealing now, it will come into its own with twenty years of age, and show well at fifty. EB (2/14)



In 1886, high in the Santa Cruz Mountains, the initial plantings of the Monte Bello vineyard were set out, and winery construction begun. A first vintage followed in 1892. During Prohibition (1920–1933), the vineyard was not maintained; some vines survived into the late '30s, but by the 1940s they were effectively abandoned. Eight acres of cabernet sauvignon were replanted in 1949. These were the source of the first Ridge Monte Bello in 1962 and subsequent vintages until 1978 when younger blocks, replanted in the sixties were considered for inclusion. Since then, many more of the historic vineyard parcels on the ridge have been replanted and that continues today.