

Decanter

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NEW WORLD GREATS TO LAY DOWN

40 superstars to add
flair to your cellar

FRANK PRIAL

Most know Ridge for its Zinfandels, but this Cab-dominated blend has been a California classic for decades. The word I always associate with Monte Bello is long. It takes a long time to come around and has a long finish. Muscular and intense.

RIDGE 2004
CALIFORNIA
MONTE BELLO

HOW
LONG CAN
YOU KEEP
AN OPEN
BOTTLE?
p76

MONTE BELLO VINEYARD:
87% MERLOT, 8% PETIT VER
GREEN. PRODUCED & BOTTLED
IN MONTE BELLO ROAD, BOX 10
CALIFORNIA, U.S.A. 750 mL

RIDGE 2004
CALIFORNIA
MONTE BELLO®

MONTE BELLO VINEYARD: 76% CABERNET SAUVIGNON,
13% MERLOT, 8% PETIT VERDOT, 3% CABERNET FRANC
SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS 13.2% ALCOHOL BY VOLUME
GROWN, PRODUCED & BOTTLED BY RIDGE VINEYARDS
17100 MONTE BELLO ROAD, BOX 1810, CUPERTINO, CA 95015

Los Angeles Times

June 2007

2004 Ridge Monte Bello

This year's estate red blend is three-quarters Cabernet, with the balance Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. It is a seamless, beautifully structured red that leads with aromas of cassis, plum, and is grounded by a finely grained minerality and a dark complement of oak. Its youthful flavors fall into deep blue cassis fruit, but the wine's texture is masterful, full and powerful. Don't touch for five years, at least.

—Patrick Comiskey

Steve Tanzer's

International Wine Cellar

September 2006

2004 Monte Bello California

Ruby-red. Brooding aromas of cassis, blackberry, minerals, bitter chocolate, tobacco and fresh herbs. Fat, broad and sweet, with nicely integrated acidity and complex hints of leather, herbs, licorice, chocolate and minerals. This cheek-coating wine is a bit more filled in than the 2003 release. Finishes with superfine tannins and lovely subtle persistence. Score: 91-94

—Stephen Tanzer

Wine Spectator

May 2005

RIDGE Monte Bello Santa Cruz Mountains 2004

A mix of elegance and power, with deep, dark, concentrated cherry cassis, spicebox and cedar notes. Chewy, rustic nuances of herb, eucalyptus, leather and sage flavors fill out on the finish. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. Score (predicted of finished product): 92-94

—James Laube