

SPRING 2015 RELEASES

RIDGE	2012
CABERNET	
SAUVIGNON	
ESTATE	

2012 Cabernet Sauvignon Estate, 94 points

Ridge's 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon Estate may very well be the single finest value in California Cabernet Sauvignon in its price range. Rich and explosive, with plenty of vintage 2012 exuberance, the Estate Cabernet hits the palate with masses of dark, concentrated fruit that nearly buries the mountain tannins. There is plenty of tension, beneath although 2012 remains radiant and incredibly appealing today. Shades of tar, graphite and smoke add darkness on the finish. The 2012 could use a few years in bottle to shed some of its baby fat, but it is remarkable by any measure. I don't think there is a finer California Cabernet Sauvignon today at this price, but if there is, I would like to taste it!

RIDGE	2013
GEYSERVILLE®	

2013 Geyserville, 94 points

The 2013 Zinfandel Geyserville is every bit as fabulous from bottle as it was from barrel last year. Ripe and voluptuous on the palate - yet with a super-classic conception of structure, the 2013 offers superb depth and impeccable overall balance. Waves of dark red cherry, pomegranate, spice, tobacco lead to more savory/ferrous notes that develop in the glass. Saline notes give the 2013 much of its energy and vivacity. This is a tremendous effort from Ridge.

RIDGE	2012
MERLOT	
ESTATE	

2012 Merlot Estate, 92 points

The 2012 Merlot Estate is an absolute joy to taste. Dark and sumptuous to the core, the 2012 boasts superb richness to match its open-knit, welcoming personality. Plum, black cherry, mocha, sweet herbs, cloves and violets are some of the notes that are laced into the voluptuous, racy finish. Expressive savory undertones are a reminder this is a mountain wine, but the raciness is pure 2012.

RIDGE	2013
CHARDONNAY	
ESTATE	

2013 Chardonnay Estate, 92 points

The 2013 Chardonnay Estate is classy, understated and polished. Lemon peel, yellow orchard fruit, mint and a gentle hint of spice open up in the glass. A hint of reduction typical of the Ridge Chardonnays is present, which means readers should either cellar the 2013 for at least a few years or give it a good deal of aeration. There is a lot to like in this delicate, delineated Chardonnay from Ridge.

RIDGE	2013
EAST BENCH®	
ZINFANDEL	

2013 East Bench Zinfandel, 91 points

Black cherry, plum, smoke, dark spices and licorice are some of the notes that inform the Ridge's 2013 Zinfandel East Bench. The 2013 possesses striking focus and salinity that play off the wine's powerful yet mysterious personality. The darker side of Zinfandel comes through on the incisive finish. This is another wonderfully complex wine from Ridge.

RIDGE	2013
PASO ROBLES	
ZINFANDEL	

2013 Paso Robles Zinfandel, 90 points

Ridge's 2013 Zinfandel Paso Robles, from the Benito Dusi Ranch, exudes Paso warmth and richness. Unquestionably racy and overt, the 2013 offers striking depth and intensity, with a slightly roasted, sweet quality to the fruit. Sweet tobacco, cedar and dried herbs add closing shades of nuance, but the 2013 remains quite opulent in style. Still, all the elements are in the right place. The 2013 could use a few years to soften. It will be appreciated most by readers who enjoy intense, super-ripe Zinfandels.

FALL 2015 RELEASES

RIDGE	2012
MONTE BELLO	

2012 Monte Bello, 98 points

The 2012 Monte Bello is one of the most harmonious young Monte Bellos I can remember tasting. Seamless and voluptuous through to the finish, the 2012 is showing beautifully today. Raspberry jam, pomegranate, white flowers, mint and spices are some of the many notes that flesh out in the glass. A wine with a distinctly red-hued profile, silky tannins, no hard edges and exceptional overall balance, the 2012 Monte Bello is simply magnificent. The 2012 is racy but also impeccably balanced throughout, with shades of the 2001 that come through from time to time. I won't be surprised if the 2013 and 2014 both eventually surpass it, but there is no denying that the 2012 is simply stunning today. This is one of the best showings yet for the 2012.

RIDGE	2013
LYTTON SPRINGS	

2013 Lytton Springs, 95 points

The 2013 Lytton Springs has really come together over the last year, far exceeding my early expectations. Powerful and explosive in the glass, the 2013 boasts tons of inky blue/purplish fruit, mocha, spices, new leather, lavender and licorice. Readers will have to give the Lytton Springs at least a few years to shed some baby fat, but it is nearly impossible to resist, even at this early stage. Once again, the team at Ridge has produced an absolutely compelling Lytton Springs. The 16% Petite Sirah in the blend adds an unmistakable air of gravitas.

RIDGE	2013
LYTTON ESTATE	
PETITE SIRAH	

2013 Lytton Estate Petite Sirah, 93 points

The 2013 Petite Sirah Lytton Estate is oddly enough quite civilized and even a touch tame by Petite standards. There is plenty of inky blue/black-fleshed fruit but the tannins are surprisingly soft. Game, smoke and a hint of tobacco add nuance through the mid-palate and finish. The 2013 is a beautiful wine, but readers expecting a full-on Petite experience might be slightly disappointed, as this is an especially tamed Petite with varietal character that has largely been subdued.