Vineyard Production: 53 tons from 48 acres Selection: 25%

90 Monte Bello, bottled March 92

This ideal growing season produced lower-than-usual yields and a marked concentration of fruit, color and tannin. We made a separate wine from each of the ten different sections of the vineyard. In the assemblage, the softer, less intense wines—amounting to twenty-five percent of the total—were held out. The first press was included, and a portion of the wine was fined early in the aging process to moderate tannin. It is well-balanced, full, and quite lovely now, but will continue to develop for another twenty years. This may be the finest vintage since 1970.

Founded in 1959, Ridge was one of the first of today's small, fine California wineries—limiting production to achieve the highest quality. From the beginning, close adherence to traditional winemaking techniques has set Ridge apart. This approach determines our style and includes extensive use of natural yeasts, submerged cap fermentations, racking for clarity, and filtering only when necessary for stability. Our winery and estate vineyards are located above 2,300 feet on Monte Bello Ridge in the Santa Cruz Mountains, overlooking San Francisco and the Bay Area. To order wines or visit, write or call (408) 867-3233.

RIDGE 1990 SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS MONTE BELLO

85% CABERNET SAUVIGNON, 10% MERLOT, 5% PETIT VERDOT SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS ALCOHOL 13.5% BY VOLUME GROWN, PRODUCED AND BOTTLED BY RIDGE VINEYARDS BW 4488 17100 MONTE BELLO RD, BOX 1810, CUPERTINO, CALIFORNIA 95014