

Vineyard Production:

172 tons from 83.5 acres

Selection: 45%

97 Monte Bello Vineyard, bottled May 99

This most unusual year began with torrential winter rains, followed by a long, mild spring. Flowering was early; the amount of fruit formed was unusually large. We dropped nearly twenty percent of the crop, bringing yields down to two tons per acre—and assuring intensity. This was the earliest vintage since 1962. All thirty-three parcels were fermented separately, on their natural yeast; in a return to methods employed in the sixties and seventies, part of the malolactic took place in barrel. The wine was aged for eighteen months, almost entirely in new, air-dried american oak. Ripe and well-structured, this Monte Bello is among the finest of a great decade. It is approachable as a young wine, and will develop fully over the next fifteen years. PD (3/99)

In 1892, the newly completed Monte Bello Winery produced its first vintage from this distinctive mountain site. In 1962, Ridge made its first Monte Bello from the same ground. This is one of those rare vineyards where climate, soil, and varietal are perfectly matched. So that the site's unique character will define the wine, we use the minimal handling typical of traditional winemaking.

(408) 867-3233

® REGISTERED TRADEMARK
www.ridgevine.com

RIDGE 1997

CALIFORNIA

MONTE BELLO®

**MONTE BELLO VINEYARD: 85% CABERNET SAUVIGNON,
8% MERLOT, 4% PETIT VERDOT, 3% CABERNET FRANC**
SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS ALCOHOL 12.9% BY VOLUME
PRODUCED AND BOTTLED BY RIDGE VINEYARDS, INC. BW 4488
17100 MONTE BELLO ROAD, P.O. BOX 1810, CUPERTINO, CA 95015