

GOVERNMENT WARNING: (1) ACCORDING TO THE SURGEON GENERAL, WOMEN SHOULD NOT DRINK ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES DURING PREGNANCY BECAUSE OF THE RISK OF BIRTH DEFECTS. (2) CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IMPAIRS YOUR ABILITY TO DRIVE A CAR OR OPERATE MACHINERY, AND MAY CAUSE HEALTH PROBLEMS. CONTAINS SULFITES

Vineyard Production:
166 tons from 105 acres
Selection: 42%

99 Monte Bello, bottled March 2001

In most California vineyards, yields were cut by a cold, rainy spring. At Monte Bello, where it was colder still, flowering and set were put on hold. When summer finally came, the clement weather allowed a perfect set. Even after severe thinning, yields were two and a half tons per acre, equaling 1997's record. We harvested the separate parcels from the end of October through mid-November, as they ripened. In this vintage, fermentations destined for in-barrel malolactic were started with selected yeast; the rest—including all malolactics—were natural. Ninety-three percent of the wine was racked to air-dried american oak and—as part of our ongoing comparison—seven percent to the best french oak. In February, we chose twenty-three of the thirty-six parcels for the Monte Bello. A conjunction of intense black fruit, firm acid, and well-integrated tannin has produced one of the finest vintages of an unusual decade. Balanced and approachable as a young wine, this lovely Monte Bello will develop beautifully with ten to fifteen years of bottle age.

PD (1/01)

® REGISTERED TRADEMARK

408.867.3233

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RIDGE 1999

CALIFORNIA

MONTE BELLO®

**MONTE BELLO VINEYARD: 72% CABERNET SAUVIGNON
25% MERLOT, 2% CABERNET FRANC, 1% PETIT VERDOT
SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS ALCOHOL 13.0% BY VOLUME
PRODUCED AND BOTTLED BY RIDGE VINEYARDS BW 4488
17100 MONTE BELLO ROAD, BOX 1810, CUPERTINO, CA 95015**