

RIDGE 2003

CALIFORNIA

MONTE BELLO®

**MONTE BELLO VINEYARD: 85% CABERNET SAUVIGNON,
8% MERLOT, 7% PETIT VERDOT**
SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS 13.2% ALCOHOL BY VOLUME
GROWN, PRODUCED & BOTTLED BY RIDGE VINEYARDS
17100 MONTE BELLO ROAD, BOX 1810, CUPERTINO, CA 95015

**Total vineyard production:
130 tons from 108 acres
32% selected for this wine**

2003 Monte Bello Estate Vineyard, bottled Aug 2005

Budbreak came early, but cold, wet weather in April and May delayed bloom. Summer conditions varied more than usual among the lower, middle, and highest vineyards. The first were often bathed in morning fog; the second—above the fog—more sheltered, and the last most exposed to the ocean's capricious influence. The vines ripened over the first three weeks of October; for the first time in many years the middle blocks dominate the selection, making up more than three-quarters of the wine. After a natural yeast primary fermentation, sixty percent of the lots completed natural malolactic in barrel, the rest in small tanks. In March following vintage, we made a small first assemblage, using only eight of the thirty lots; two more, a petit verdot and a cabernet, were added in May. In November, as the wine evolved, we included six more—a highly unusual third assemblage. Aging took place over twenty-two months in air-dried oak barrels—ninety-two percent american and eight percent french. This elegant Monte Bello is beautifully balanced as a young wine. It will enter a more complex stage after ten years, and continue to evolve throughout a second decade. PD (3/05)

750 mL

408.867.3233

Product of USA
www.ridgewine.com

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.
® REGISTERED TRADEMARK

CONTAINS SULFITES