



RIDGE
VINEYARDS

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TO ORDER

To secure your reorder quantities, please visit our website or call us at **408.867.3233**. As always, member discounts apply. Estate Cabernet is available in large format.

Wine	Retail Price	Member Price 1-11 btls	Case Price 12+ btls
2013 Estate Cabernet	\$55.00	\$49.50	\$46.75
2013 Estate Merlot	\$50.00	\$45.00	\$42.50
2014 Estate Chardonnay	\$50.00	\$45.00	\$42.50
2013 Monte Bello	N/A. Public Release Sept. 1 st		

More details at www.ridgevine.com

UPCOMING EVENTS



ASSEMBLAGE MONTE BELLO Saturday and Sunday, April 9th & 10th 11am – 5pm

The assemblage tastings continue as guests at our April event try barrel samples of the 2015 Monte Bello first assemblage.

This event is open to Z List, ATP and Collector members (a total of four attendees per membership).

FINAL MONTE BELLO ASSEMBLAGE TASTING Saturday & Sunday, May 21st & 22nd 11am – 5pm

Taste the results of the second and final assemblage of the 2015 Monte Bello. This wine will be bottled in late spring 2016 and shipped in 2018.

This event is for Monte Bello Collector members only (a total of four attendees per membership).

Space is very limited with events typically selling out in advance. Registration is required for each event. For more information visit: www.ridgevine.com/events

JUDGMENT OF PARIS



THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JUDGMENT OF PARIS TASTING

2016 marks the 40th anniversary of the Judgment of Paris tasting. In 1976, Steven Spurrier, an Englishman running a wine shop and wine school in Paris, organized a tasting of six top California cabernets and chardonnays to celebrate the American Bicentennial. He added four Bordeaux wines and four white Burgundies to act as markers against which to evaluate the Californians. The judges were among the best tasters in France, and, to everyone's surprise, chose a California wine over the French for both the red and white flights. The tasting ended an era in which it was thought that fine wine came only from Europe. The response of the French judges to the results was that the California wines would not age and the French wines would win if tasted again in 30 years.

On May 24, 2006, a 30 year re-enactment of the Judgment of Paris was organized by Steven Spurrier — this time with simultaneous tastings in London and in Napa at Copia. Paralleling the 1976 event, nine expert tasters at each location judged the original red wines, now over thirty years old. The winning wine in both the U.S. and U.K. was the Ridge Monte Bello 1971. In the combined results, it was in a class by itself — eighteen points ahead of the second-place wine. We were very proud of this elegant Monte Bello's showing on both sides of the Atlantic — especially given the prestige of the tasters.

For more information visit:
www.ridgevine.com/judgment-of-paris

RIDGE
VINEYARDS
Exceptional single-vineyard wines since 1962



MONTE BELLO
COLLECTOR

2016

RIDGE 2013 CABERNET SAUVIGNON ESTATE

75% CABERNET SAUVIGNON, 20% MERLOT,
3% PETIT VERDOT, 2% CABERNET FRANC

Winemaker's Notes: A second year of drought led to a mild winter, and February budbreak. The unusually early start, small crop, and warm summer, moved the harvest from October to September for the first time in fifty years. Tannins extracted quickly, and we pressed at five days to maintain balance. We selected and combined seventeen lots which were then aged in new and one-year-old american oak for twenty months. This fine vintage has intensity, firm acid, and a complex mineral element. Enjoyable now, it will develop fully over the next decade.

EB (4/15)



In 1886 the first Monte Bello vineyards were planted and construction on the winery begun. With Prohibition the vineyards were abandoned. In the late 1940s a few blocks were replanted and those vines produced the first Ridge Monte Bello in 1962. As more of the abandoned parcels were replanted and matured, it was clear that a number of them consistently made a more accessible wine that developed its full complexity earlier and by 1979 these were being combined as the "Santa Cruz Mountains." With the 2008 vintage the name of this stylistically distinct wine became the Estate Cabernet Sauvignon, the principal varietal and the Monte Bello vineyard as its source.

RIDGE 2013 MERLOT ESTATE

100% MERLOT

Winemaker's Notes: A dry, warm winter prompted unusually early budbreak; the small crop alleviated some water stress on the vines. Destemmed, the grapes fermented as whole berries, and were pressed on the seventh day. After barrel malolactics and four months on their gross lees, the six lots were racked, combined, and returned to barrel; rich texture and intense mountain fruit supported a high percentage of new oak in aging. Enjoyable now, this superb vintage will develop further complexity over the next nine to ten years. EB (5/15)



Ridge first made merlot in 1974 from the Point, the highest, most exposed block on the Monte Bello vineyard at an elevation of 2600'. Originally, we wanted to see if the varietal could match the quality of, and be included in, the Monte Bello. Once satisfied that it could, we planted more merlot over the years as space and resources allowed. From 1975 on, it has been a part of the Monte Bello whenever assemblage tastings so indicated. As the younger plantings matured, it became apparent that not only did merlot complement the Monte Bello, but also had the structure and complexity to merit a separate bottling.

RIDGE 2014 CHARDONNAY ESTATE

100% CHARDONNAY

Winemaker's Notes: Warm weather brought bud-break in February, and advanced the season for our earliest chardonnay harvest ever. Picked by taste at moderate ripeness, the fruit was whole-cluster pressed and barrel fermented. Natural fermentations finished quickly, allowing early assemblage. Additional aging allowed the wine to clarify; we bottled without filtration. This superb chardonnay will be most enjoyable over the next five or six years. EB (8/15)



Ridge produced its first chardonnay in 1962 from fully-mature vines planted in the late 1940s on the Monte Bello estate vineyard. Production never exceeded ten barrels, and Monte Bello chardonnay was sold principally at the winery. By 1985, the old vines were producing less than a half-ton per acre and were taken out. The younger vines planted in the 1970s, provide the majority of grapes today. Initially these newer plantings were on the "lower" vineyard — not yet farmed as part of the Monte Bello estate — so the wine was called "Santa Cruz Mountains." The vines are long since part of the estate; and the wine is designated Ridge Estate Chardonnay.

2013 Futures Purchased in 2014

RIDGE 2013 MONTE BELLO®

80% CABERNET SAUVIGNON, 8% PETIT VERDOT,
7% CABERNET FRANC, 5% MERLOT

Winemaker's Notes: By late summer, a second drought year had pushed the vines to their limit with water stress. The resulting small berries reduced the crop, which ripened three weeks earlier than any in our fifty-year history. Fermented as whole berries, and pressed at eight days, the wines were transferred to barrel for natural malolactic. Nineteen of twenty-six lots — including only one of merlot — were selected for the 2013. This superb vintage shows Monte Bello's mineral character and firm acidity. Complex secondary qualities will develop within fifteen years, and the wine will age beautifully for twenty more. EB (3/15)



In 1886, high in the Santa Cruz Mountains, the initial plantings of the Monte Bello vineyard were set out, and winery construction begun. A first vintage followed in 1892. During Prohibition (1920–1933), the vineyard was not maintained; some vines survived into the late 1930s, but by the 1940s they were effectively abandoned. Eight acres of cabernet sauvignon were replanted in 1949. These were the source of the first Ridge Monte Bello in 1962 and subsequent vintages until 1978 when younger blocks, replanted in the 1960s were considered for inclusion. Since then, many more of the historic vineyard parcels on the ridge have been replanted and that continues today.