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2013 Ridge Monte Bello

Showing even better than last year, the 2013 Monte Bello is a tour de force, and a step up over the 2012. Full-bodied, layered, beautifully concentrated and seamless, it knocks it out of the park with its classic bouquet of plums, vanilla bean, cedary spice, scorched earth and cigar. Made from 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Petit Verdot, 7% Cabernet Franc and the rest Merlot, aged in 98% new American oak (there's 2% new French oak), I wish I had bottles in the cellar. It should be at its best from 2023-2043.

- **Jeb Dunnuck (October, 2016)**

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2013 Ridge Chardonnay Monte Bello

A true gem, the 2013 Chardonnay Monte Bello, which was barrel fermented and aged 17 months in mostly American oak, offers sensational notes of white peach, citrus blossom, mint, ginger and baking spices. It's a big, rich wine, yet it never puts a foot wrong, is impeccably balanced and stays fresh, pure and focused. Drink it anytime over the coming decade or more.

- **Jeb Dunnuck (October, 2016)**

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2014 Ridge Zinfandel Ponzo Vineyards

Coming from the Russian River Valley, the 2014 Zinfandel Ponzo Vineyards (96% Zinfandel and 4% Petite Sirah) is another sexy, seamless release from the team at Ridge that offers classic aromatics (bramble, plums, spice and dried flowers), medium-bodied richness and a clean, lengthy finish. Drink it over the coming 5-7 years.

- **Jeb Dunnuck (October, 2016)**

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2006 Ridge Chardonnay Monte Bello

The 2006 Chardonnay Monte Bello is drinking incredibly well today. A rich, unctuous white that's loaded with notions of ginger snap, toasted nuts, orchard fruits and hints of brioche; it's a serious, big, concentrated beauty that stays fresh and lively.

- **Jeb Dunnuck (October, 2016)**

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1995 Ridge Monte Bello

The first vintage where they kept each of the varieties separate for a longer period of time, the 1995 Monte Bello still smells like a three-year-old wine with its Bordeaux-styled notes of graphite, cedar, blackberries, currants and leafy herbs. Still fresh and focused on the palate, with bright acidity and fine tannin, it has another two decades of longevity.

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1995 Ridge Geyserville Proprietary Red Wine

The 1995 Geyserville is made from 62% Zinfandel, 18% Petite Sirah, 15% Carignan and 5% Mourvèdre. This was winemaker Eric Baugher's second vintage, and he certainly did a fine job here. From a dry, cooler year that yielded concentrated wines, this fully mature beauty offers terrific complexity in its spice-box, cigar, dried fruits and potpourri-like aromas and flavors. Drinking beautifully today, it continued to sweeten up with time in the glass, has medium-bodied richness and depth, and should hold for another couple of years, then have a gradual decline.

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2014 Ridge Petite Sirah Lytton Estate

The inky colored 2014 Petite Sirah Lytton Estate shows the more forward style of the vintage with its big, succulent aromas and flavors of smoked black fruits, vanilla bean, scorched earth and leather. Lightly textured, graceful (especially for a Petite Sirah), with building tannin, it isn't a blockbuster and leans more towards the elegant end of the spectrum. Drink it anytime over the coming decade.

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2014 Ridge Zinfandel Pagani Ranch

The deep purple colored Zinfandel Pagani Ranch is made in a medium to full-bodied, incredibly elegant and seamless style. The blend is 80% Zinfandel, 17% Alicante Bouschet and the balance Petite Sirah, aged all in American oak, and it boasts fabulous notes of plums, black raspberries, chocolate, spice and potpourri. It's not a massive wine, but it glides across the palate, has ripe, sweet tannin and integrated acidity. Most importantly, it's a joy to drink.

- **Jeb Dunnuck (October, 2016)**

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91+

2014 Ridge Lytton Springs

More fresh and elegant than the Geyserville, with a touch more focus, the 2014 Lytton Springs is another beautiful wine from this estate. Made from 69% Zinfandel, 18% Petite Sirah and the rest Carignan and Mourvèdre, aged in 20% new American oak, it boasts fabulous notes of plums, blackberry jam, toasted spice and licorice as well as medium to full-bodied richness, beautiful mid-palate depth and notable tannin. The Geyserville is a touch sexier, but this will be longer lived. Give bottles 2-3 years of cellaring and enjoy over the following decade or more.

- Jeb Dunnuck (October, 2016)

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1978 Ridge Monte Bello

The 1978 Monte Bello is a similar blend to the 1985 and is 94% Cabernet Sauvignon and 6% Merlot. It too is fully mature and has a gorgeous core of sweet fruit, complex notes of spice box, dried herbs, tobacco and black currants, a seamless texture and no shortage of length on the finish. It's a seriously classy wine that I was thrilled to be able to taste.

- Jeb Dunnuck (October, 2016)

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1995 Ridge Lytton Springs

Younger and slightly fresher than the Geyserville, yet not quite as seamless or elegant, the 1995 Lytton Springs gives up full-bodied notes of plums, blackberries, smoked herbs and pepper, with more meatiness and spice developing with time in the glass. Drink this big, rich, powerful wine over the coming 5-6 years, and like the Geyserville, it will keep longer.

- Jeb Dunnuck (October, 2016)

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92

1985 Ridge Monte Bello

Made from 93% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Merlot, the 1985 Mont Bello hit 13.1% natural alcohol, which is a ripe vintage for this estate. Today, it is fully mature and drinking at point, with complex, nuanced notes of tobacco leaf, spice box, underbrush and mature dark fruits. Classy, balanced and with no hard edges, drink this beauty over the coming 4-5 years.

- Jeb Dunnuck (October, 2016)

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**93**

2014 Ridge Geyserville Proprietary Red Wine

A classic 2014, the downright sexy, hedonistic and ready to go 2014 Geyserville Proprietary Red Wine (60% Zinfandel, 24% Carignan, 12% Petite Sirah and 4% Mourvèdre) is medium to full-bodied, perfectly balanced and loaded with notions of blackberries, plums, brambly herbs, licorice and spice. It's relatively soft and already approachable, but it will nevertheless keep through 2024.

- Jeb Dunnuck (October, 2016)

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