

FALL 2017 RELEASES

RIDGE	2014
MONTE BELLO	

2014 Monte Bello, 96 points

The 2014 Monte Bello is going to need at least a decade to show everything it has. Deceptively medium in body and super-classic in its mid-weight structure, the 2014 offers notable brightness and intensity in an understated style, even by Ridge standards. Today, the 2014 is intensely linear, focused and vibrant. Petit Verdot is the variety that suffered most in the drought, so its presence in the blend is minimal.

RIDGE	2014
MONTE BELLO	
CHARDONNAY	

2014 Monte Bello Chardonnay, 94 points

A wine of total elegance and finesse, the 2014 Chardonnay Monte Bello stands out for its poise and harmony. In 2014, the vines were at the height of their stress from the drought, and yet the wine doesn't really show it. Ample, broad and creamy, the 2014 has it all. I would prefer to give the 2014 at least a few years in bottle to develop more aromatic nuance. Tangerine, lemon confit and almond notes grace the exquisite, oily finish.

RIDGE	2015
LYTTON SPRINGS	

2015 Lytton Springs, 94+ points

The 2015 Lytton Springs is very, very closed. Readers should not think about opening a bottle anytime soon. Intensely aromatic, but also tightly wound, the 2015 only hints at its true potential. Deceptively medium in body, the 2015 packs a real punch.

RIDGE	2015
PAGANI RANCH	
ZINFANDEL	

2015 Pagani Ranch Zinfandel, 94 points

A dense, powerful wine, the 2015 Zinfandel Pagani Ranch exudes concentration in all of its dimensions. Red cherry jam, pomegranate, mint, rose petal and spice meld together in a plush, voluptuous Zinfandel loaded with personality. There is so much to like. The Pagani is the ripest and most overt of the three Zinfandel-based 2015s I tasted. A generous dollop of Alicante contributes to the wine's feel.

RIDGE	2015
LYTTON ESTATE	
PETITE SIRAH	

2015 Lytton Estate Petite Sirah, 94 points

The 2015 Petite Sirah Lytton Estate is all class. There is plenty of depth to the inky blue and purplish Petite fruit, while the tannins are remarkably polished for a young Dry Creek Petite. Hints of lavender, tobacco, mint, smoke and crème de cassis develop in the glass, adding further shades of complexity. This clay-rich site seems to be especially well suited to Petite. Whole berry fermentation and gentle extractions yield and especially refined Petite. The 2015 is another drop-dead gorgeous wine from Ridge.

SPRING 2017 RELEASES

RIDGE	2014
CABERNET	
SAUVIGNON	
ESTATE	

2014 Cabernet Sauvignon Estate, 93 points

One of the many highlights in this range, the 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon Estate is terrific. The effects of the drought and resulting heat stress come through in the wine's structural feel and bold, incisive flavors. Even with all of its intensity, the 2014 has a certain silkiness in its tannins that makes it approachable today. Of course, the 2014 will be even better in another few years, but opening a bottle on the early side is not a crime. The 2014 spent 27 months in French oak. Readers who are looking for a more affordable alternative to Ridge's iconic Monte Bello should consider the 2014 Estate. Look for the Estate to be a real overachiever in 2014 as well as one of the best - possibly the best - California Cabernet in its price range.

RIDGE	2015
GEYSERVILLE	

2015 Geyserville, 94 points

It's hard to believe that Ridge's iconic Zinfandel Geyserville celebrates its fiftieth anniversary in 2015. Today, the wine is quite deep, powerful and unyielding. Of course, the low yields of the vintage have a lot to do with that. I am not surprised winemaker Eric Baugher decided to give the 2015 a few more months in barrel, as there is a lot of stuffing here. The interplay of fruit, aromatics and acidity is compelling. Red cherry jam, pomegranate, rose petal and woodsmoke infuse the finish. The 2015 is going to need time to be at its best, but it is impressive.

RIDGE	2014
MERLOT	
ESTATE	

2014 Merlot Estate, 92 points

Ridge's 2014 Merlot Estate possesses notable purity of fruit, brilliant aromatic presence and fabulous balance. Pliant, open-knit and super-expressive, Ridge's Merlot is a terrific choice for readers who are just starting to get to know the Ridge wines, as it can be enjoyed with minimal cellaring. What a joy it is to taste the 2014 today. Sadly, there will be no 2015, as yields were punishingly low.

RIDGE	2015
CHARDONNAY	
ESTATE	

2015 Chardonnay Estate, 93 points

The 2015 Chardonnay Estate is a pretty powerful wine, especially by Ridge standards. Drought and poor weather during bloom resulted in a loss of 35% of the crop. As for the wine itself, well, it is fabulous. Rich and authoritative, but with good freshness, the 2015 has it all. Lemon confit, white flowers, apricot, mint and a hint of reduction from extended time on lees add nuance throughout. This is a superb showing.

RIDGE	2015
EAST BENCH	
ZINFANDEL	

2015 East Bench Zinfandel, 92 points

The 2015 Zinfandel East Bench, 100% Zinfandel from Ridge's Dry Creek estate, is deep, pliant and generous, all qualities that make it easy to drink and enjoy, even today. Succulent dark cherry and plum fruit flavors add to the wine's up-front personality. Bright acids perk up the finish, but this is a decidedly fruity style.