



The Maritime Museum in San Francisco is one of many local destinations managed by the U.S. National Park Service.

National Park lifetime senior pass cost increase on Aug. 28

Lifetime passes for seniors for parks within the national park system will be increased from \$10 to \$80 starting on August 28, according to the U.S. National Park Service.

The Park Service began charging seniors for the first time in 1994. What had been free became a \$10 fee – but good for a person's lifetime.

The decision to raise the fee eightfold to the same rate for all adults is based upon the National Park Service Centennial Act, which increases fees based upon its current budget. The Act was approved by Congress last December.

Seniors with lifetime passes are not affected. Those passes will continue to be honored by all sites within the National Park system.

No pass or fee is required to visit most facilities in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Seniors purchasing lifetime passes for the first time are advised to buy them directly at an NPR location rather than online to avoid waiting for the pass to be mailed.

For the location nearest you, click on www.nps.gov and click on the map of California.



Ridge Vineyards – 2017 Version

By Pierre DuMont

One of the treats of the wine reviewing year is when Ridge Vineyards unveils their new releases. I have often said in the past that if I were stranded on a deserted island and could have wine from only one of the world's millions of wineries, the winery I would choose is Ridge Vineyards.

To some, it might seem to be an odd choice. In the first place

deaux in blind tasting? Welcome to Montebello. Want great Rhone style wines from Syrah and Grenache? Ridge makes them.

And most importantly, Ridge is home to a huge stable of stellar Zinfandels, always beautifully balanced and well proportioned. The other nice thing about these Ridge wines is their availability. They generally make enough of them that you can find them in stores or online.

So I am happy to present to you another batch of winners from Ridge Vineyards. www.ridgevine.com

• 2015 Ridge Chardonnay Estate, \$55

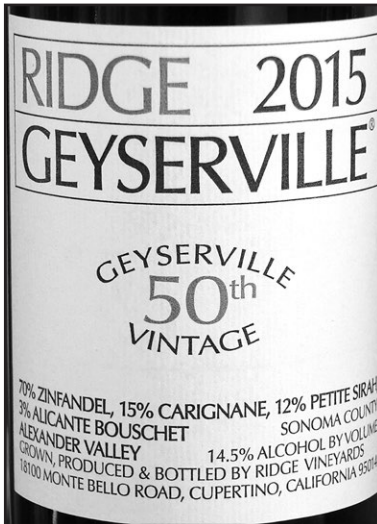
In search of full disclosure, Ridge has stated listing all ingredients in its wine on the back label. This includes "malolactic bacteria" which in this wine is definitely a good thing. These little critters are what turn a sharp, acidic, tart, lemony wine into something a little kinder and gentler. Things can go too far in that direction though too. The trick in making great Chardonnay is to find the sweet spot in the middle between tart and creamy. The 2015 Estate Chardonnay has found it.

• 2015 Ridge Geyserville, \$40

This year Ridge is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Geyserville bottling. Along with Lytton Springs, this is perennially my favorite Ridge Zinfandel. The label does not say "Zinfandel" because at 70% it falls below the 75% threshold for the name to be on the label. The wine's complexity is increased by the addition of Carignane, Petite Sirah and Alicante Bouchet. A mix of ripe, zesty, flashy blackberry fruit with an underlying sense of elegance and grace, this well balanced, medium bodied wine is a luscious crowd-pleaser. Try with winter steaks or braised lamb shanks.

• 2015 Ridge Zinfandel East Bench, \$32

This 100% Zin comes from



Ridge Vineyard's famous Geyserville label is celebrating its 50th year with a special vintage.

Ridge is located in...Napa?... Sonoma?...try Cupertino. That's right – in Silicon Valley just down the road from Apple. In the second place many of the great wines they make are from grapes spread all over the state from vineyards they don't even own.

Paul Draper, the winemaker for the past forty some odd years, has officially retired but he has put together an amazing team of winemakers who have been his disciples for years. The Ridge style is likely to continue unchanged.

The other thing that sets Ridge apart from many other good wineries is the sheer breadth of their offerings. Want a classic California Chardonnay? They got it. Want a world class Cabernet that has beaten the most famous Bor-

the Dry Creek Valley in Sonoma County. This wine has a bright berry nose, medium body with good acid to give it balance. A very food-friendly style of Zinfandel. Try it with grilled steaks or chops.

• 2013 Ridge Zinfandel Paso Robles, \$35

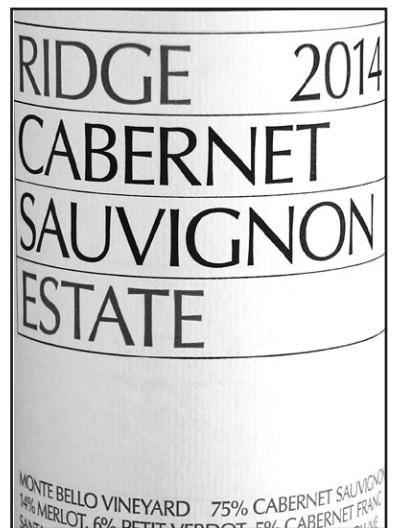
Hailing from the old Benito Dusi Ranch, this is an excellent example of the "Paso Robles style" of Zin. Wines from this area generally have a riper, richer, late harvest quality than wines grown farther north in Sonoma and Napa. While the wine shows plenty of luscious, opulent fruit, it still retains the acid and structure to keep it from being overpowering.

• 2012 Ridge Cabernet Sauvignon Estate, \$60

This wine is the "baby Montebello" from the famed vineyard overlooking Silicon Valley. It is blended with 14% Merlot, 6% Petite Verdot and 5% Cabernet Franc. The wine itself possesses a deep plum color as well as a sweet perfume of minerals, and cassis, medium to full body, excellent texture, ripe tannin and enough structure for aging up to 15 years.

• 2012 Ridge Merlot Estate, \$55

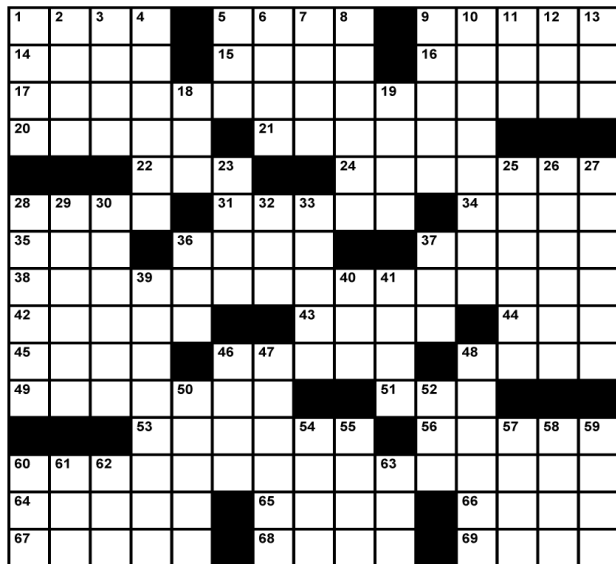
Ridge is not as well known for its Merlot as for its Zins and Cabernets, so I was interested to see what they would do with this grape. This wine is softer and more velvety than Cabernet, with a complex nose of mint, earth and spice with layers of blackberry and cassis fruit on the palate supported by ample structure and a long compelling finish.



Ridge Vineyard's Cabernet is a textbook California Cabernet.

Crossword Puzzle

Second Careers
by Myles Mellor and Sally York



- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Across | 53. Adorn | 26. Nahuati speakers |
| 1. Rage violently | 56. City in Belgium | 27. Rent payer |
| 5. Sword handle | 60. Pop artist turns actor? | 28. Kentucky forward |
| 9. Counters | 64. Bill of ____ | 29. Rabbit-like rodent |
| 14. Infant's desire to be loved (Japanese word) | 65. Poker diva | 30. Got it |
| 15. Asian nurse | 66. Not theirs | 32. Baseball stat |
| 16. Cricket position | 67. Daisy variety | 33. On edge |
| 17. Outlaw turns soul singer? | 68. Yemen gulf singer? | 36. South Korean currency |
| 20. Cockeyed | 69. White ice | 37. Juliet, to Romeo |
| 21. Spread a fertilizer | Down | 39. Agoraphobic? |
| 22. Oolong, for one | 1. Big Indian | 40. Palindromic begetter? |
| 24. Enlist | 2. Home of ISU | 41. Touch |
| 28. Maori war dance | 3. Cher flick | 46. Muslim pilgrimage |
| 31. Spite | 4. 100 centimos | 47. Anatomical ring |
| 34. Exude | 5. "The ____" (Uris novel) | 48. Text changer |
| 35. "Act your ____!" | 6. Prayer leader | 50. Perfume |
| 36. Had on | 7. Guru | 52. "Aladdin" prince |
| 37. Personae non gratae | 8. Prefix with magnetic | 54. Scolded |
| 38. Director turns businessman? | 9. Color of honey | 55. Pad or cap starter |
| 42. Sentence type | 10. Faulks novel | 57. Needle holder |
| 43. Fruitless | 11. ____ Annie | 58. Undeveloped idea |
| 44. Trick taker, often | 12. Bully | 59. European language |
| 45. Any thing | 13. Hampton ____ | 60. This may be fragile |
| 46. Mozart contemporary | 18. "Concentration" pronoun | 61. Nova, e.g. |
| 48. Finnish river | 19. Brickbat | 62. Piggy digit? |
| 49. Cognac cocktail | 23. Acknowledge | 63. Hosiery defect |
| 51. Bit | 25. Uproars | |

Mountain View docent tour this Saturday

Historic Mountain View Cemetery, located at the end of Piedmont Avenue, will conduct a free tour for public this Saturday, August 12, starting at 10 a.m.

The popular tours at historic Mountain View, which dates to the 1860s, are conducted twice a month, on the second and fourth Saturday. The tours provide an opportunity for a closer look at the fascinating people and aspects of the cemetery that the docent tour leaders have researched and developed into new tours.

Meet in front of the administrative office and wear comfortable shoes. No reservation is needed. To arrange a private group tour at another time, or for more information, call the office at 658-2588.

Sudoku Puzzle

Sudoku by Myles Mellor
Easy

