

Our Head Winemaker, John Olney

We are pleased to announce that John Olney has been promoted to Head Winemaker and COO at Ridge Vineyards and will oversee all Ridge winemaking operations at both the Monte Bello and Lytton Springs wineries. John joined Ridge twenty-five years ago and spent his first three years at Monte Bello working under Paul Draper. In 1999, he led the construction of Ridge’s new Lytton Springs winery in Healdsburg and was then promoted to Winemaker and Chief Operating Officer of the Lytton Springs facility.

John has a wealth of winemaking experience. Very early on, he frequently visited the south of France, where he spent time with his uncle, Richard Olney, the celebrated food and wine writer. Through his uncle’s relationships, John learned firsthand many of the great European winemaking methods and traditions. Later, while attending a language exchange program in Provence, he chose to pursue wine as a career. In 1994, he enrolled in enological studies at the Lycée Viticole in Burgundy. Before joining Ridge, John worked at Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant and interned with several European winemakers, including Gérard Chave in the Rhône, Lucien Peyraud at Domaine Tempier, and Aubert de Villaine of Domaine de la Romanée-Conti. In 2016 John was voted in as a member of Academie Internationale du Vin (AIV).



“John fully understands what it takes to make fine wine and has been doing just that for twenty years at Lytton Springs. He has contributed greatly to the consistent quality of Ridge wines over the years. I am confident that John will excel in this new position. I will be supporting him as he returns to work again at Monte Bello.”

— Paul Draper, Chairman



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Virtual Tasting

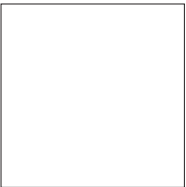
Friday, April 16, 2021
10 a.m. PDT

Join us as David Gates, Senior VP of Vineyard Operations, John Olney, Head Winemaker & COO, and David Amadia, President take you through our spring release wines.

More information:
ridgewine.com/spring-2021-virtual-tasting



RIDGE
VINEYARDS
PO Box 1810 | Cupertino, CA 95015



“Ridge’s Monte Bello Cabernet is a California benchmark, but don’t overlook the winery’s excellent estate Cabernet. Dark currants and cassis, cola and mint — it’s both complex and delicious.”
— Ray Isle, Executive Wine Director, Food & Wine Magazine



Food & Wine Features Ridge Estate Cabernet in “California Wine’s Best-Kept Secret”
Scan to read article
ridgewine.com/about/news/food-wine-features-ridge-estate-cabernet-in-california-wines-best-kept-secret/

Our Dedication to Responsible Winegrowing

At Ridge, we’re committed to sustainability and organic farming of our vineyards. We are the largest grower of organically certified grapes in Sonoma County and in the Santa Cruz Mountains appellation. Sustainability is both a philosophy and a set of environmentally responsible practices designed to safeguard the land on which we grow our grapes. We seek to conserve and renew natural resources, protect wildlife habitats, and ensure the safety and economic security of our employees. Organic farming goes further by eschewing the use of synthetic chemicals in the vineyard in favor of natural methods of maintaining soil health, controlling vine pests and diseases, and combating weeds and mildew.

Water Conservation

We look to conserve water in a variety of ways. One way is by monitoring our vineyards at the vine level with the latest sensor technology to make sure that any irrigation we do is necessary. The sensors measure the sap-flow of individual vines, which provides us very specific data about their water needs. In addition, we recycle our winery grey water on-site so that it can be used for irrigation, if needed.

Low / No Tillage

We practice no-till (mow only) on our hillside vineyard blocks to help minimize erosion and build organic matter in the soil. In blocks where the vines need some nitrogen help (see our cover crop practices), we mow alternate rows to keep them in permanent cover. Our under-vine weed management includes a combination of mow-only, tillage (mechanical and/or manual), and strictly organic applications.

Compost

Each year, at both of our wineries, we compost all of our grape stems and pomace (fermented skins and seeds), along with our neighbors’ horse manure and other amendments such as organically sourced lime and gypsum. Composted for a year, this “black gold” is spread on our vineyards after harvest and helps feed our soil, which in turn feeds our vines.



Cover Crops

We use several different cover crops depending on our goals for each vineyard block. These include soil-building legume and grass mixes to add nitrogen and organic matter; insectary plantings to increase the population of beneficial insects; grasses and clovers to control erosion; and deep-rooted perennial grasses to control vine vigor in excessively fertile soils.

Focus on Old Vines

We value old vines (more than 50 years old) for a variety of reasons. Most importantly, they usually make great wines. The reason that many old vineyards have survived the latest trend of housing development is because they are special sites where the fruit has grown more complex and concentrated over the decades, with mixed plantings of grapes that are nicely adapted to our climate.

Integrated Pest Management

Integrated Pest Management, or “IPM” is an approach to managing pests and diseases that combines a wide array of farming practices, with careful monitoring of pests and their natural enemies to prevent crop damage. An important overall goal of IPM is to reduce or eliminate the use of both organic and synthetic pesticides.

Vine Balance

We constantly work toward achieving vine balance, essential to producing flavorful wines of distinction and longevity. This may mean removing excess fruit in order to create ideal ripening dynamics within the berries, or applying water to sustain parched and stressed plants. Ultimately, balance is assessed on a vine-by-vine basis in order to meet our high standards for fruit quality.

Sustainability is both a philosophy and a set of environmentally responsible practices designed to safeguard the land on which we grow our grapes.



RIDGE 2021

Spring Releases

“Single vineyard winemaking that reveals the unique characteristics of outstanding vineyard sites is what we do.”

— John Olney,
Head Winemaker
& COO



2019 Estate Bench Zinfandel

Site: On top of the bench that separates Dry Creek Valley and Alexander Valley appellations, north of Healdsburg in Sonoma County.

2019 Paso Robles Zinfandel

Site: Three miles south of Paso Robles on the east side of Highway 101. Zinfandel grape vines planted in 1923.

2019 Three Valleys

Site: Five vineyards in Alexander Valley, four in Dry Creek Valley, and one in Sonoma Valley. Varied soils; a predominance of gravelly loam; gravelly clay loam on hillsides.



2018 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

Site: Monte Bello Estate vineyard in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Cabernet sauvignon, merlot, petit verdot, and cabernet franc — oldest vines were planted in 1949.



2019 Geyserville

Site: Western edge of Alexander Valley, Sonoma County. Zinfandel, petite sirah, carignane — oldest vines planted in 1891.



2019 Estate Chardonnay

Site: Monte Bello Estate vineyard in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Red, decomposing Franciscan rock mixed with clay/loam; fractured limestone subsoils.