

RIDGE 2021

MONTE BELLO

Monte Bello Parcels: 63 tons from 51 acres
MONTE BELLO VINEYARD 13.5% ALCOHOL BY VOLUME
64% CABERNET SAUVIGNON, 31% MERLOT, 5% PETIT VERDOT

HISTORY

In 1886, high in the Santa Cruz Mountains, the first Monte Bello vineyards were planted, and winery construction begun. A first vintage from the young vines followed in 1892. During Prohibition (1920-1933), the vineyard was not fully maintained; some vines survived into the late 30's, 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 (1962) and subsequent vintages until 1974 when younger blocks replanted in the 1960's were considered for inclusion. Since then, the historic vineyards on the ridge have gradually been replanted.

FIRST RIDGE MONTE BELLO: 1962

VINTAGE

Rainfall: 14" (30% of normal)

Bloom: Early May

Weather: A dry winter and spring stressed the vines, limiting yields and concentrating flavors. Harvest was early, accelerated by a heat wave in early September. For the first time in our 50+ year history we finished our Monte Bello harvest before Lytton Springs.

Harvest Dates: 1 - 24 September

Grapes: Average Brix 24.4°

WINEMAKING & TECHNICAL DATA

Fermentation: Grapes destemmed, 100% whole berry fermentation. Fermented on the native yeasts. Natural malolactic.

Selection: Twenty-two Monte Bello parcels

Barrels: 100% new, 92% American oak, 8% French oak

Aging: Nineteen months in barrel

pH: 3.46

TA: 6.9 g/L

Hand-harvested; estate grown Monte Bello Vineyard grapes, destemmed and sorted; fermented on the native yeasts; full malolactic on the naturally occurring bacteria; oak from barrel aging; minimum effective sulfur 35 ppm at crush, 108 ppm during aging; depth filtered at bottling. In keeping with our philosophy of minimal intervention, this is the sum of our actions.



RIDGE
VINEYARDS

408.867.3233 www.ridgewine.com
Exceptional single-vineyard wines since 1962.

2021 Monte Bello, bottled June 2023

Warm weather in August, especially at the higher elevations, expedited ripeness. For the first time, we harvested from the top vineyard at Perrone to the bottom at Klein. The drought reduced yields by more than a third resulting in small berries with exceptional tannin and color concentration. This year instead of all parcels finishing malolactic in barrel as in the past, sixty percent finished in tank. This classic Monte Bello will develop over the next twenty to twenty-five years. JO (5/23)



SITE

Monte Bello Vineyard is located in the Santa Cruz Mountains, a stand-alone appellation separating the North Coast from the Central Coast, but not a part of either. We overlook San Francisco 32 miles to the north and the Pacific 15 miles to the west.

Elevation: 1300' to 2760'

Soils: Fractured limestone soils overlaid with decomposing Franciscan green stone mixed with clay/loam.

Age of Vines: Cabernet Sauvignon planted 1949-1995, 66.4 acres; Merlot planted 1968-1997, 12.8 acres; Cabernet Franc planted 1969- 2008, 3.2 acres; Petit Verdot planted 1988 and 1990 at Torre vineyard, 2.1 acres; and planted 2008 at Rousten vineyard, 1.2 acres.

Training: Head-trained, cane pruned, on vertical trellis, vertical shoot positioned

Yields: 2.0 tons/acre

17100 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014
650 Lytton Springs Road, Healdsburg, CA 95448