

RIDGE 2023 SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS CABERNET SAUVIGNON

81% CABERNET SAUVIGNON, 15% MERLOT, 4% PETIT VERDOT
SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS 13.2% ALCOHOL BY VOLUME

HISTORY

In 1978, Ridge made its first Santa Cruz Mountains Cabernet from vineyard blocks at Monte Bello that consistently produced a more accessible wine that developed its complexity earlier. In 2008, we changed the name of this wine to Estate Cabernet to highlight the fact that all the fruit comes from the Monte Bello vineyard and is farmed by Ridge. In 2023 we had the opportunity to purchase grapes from outside growers throughout the Santa Cruz Mountains appellation. We therefore chose to return to the Santa Cruz Mountains Cabernet label to indicate that rather than coming from the Monte Bello vineyard, this wine comes from various vineyards within the appellation.

VINTAGE

Rainfall: 84" (above average)

Bloom: Late June

Weather: Late and prolonged harvest due to consistently cool weather throughout the growing season.

Harvest Dates: 6 October - 10 November

Grapes: Average Brix 23.1°

WINEMAKING & TECHNICAL DATA

Fermentation: Grapes destemmed, and sorted; 100% whole berries fermented on the native yeasts.

Barrels: 100% American oak, 30% new, 10% one-year-old, 20% two-year-old, and 40% four- and five-year-old.

Aging: Seventeen months in barrel

Hand-harvested grapes, destemmed and sorted; fermented on indigenous yeast; full malolactic on the naturally occurring bacteria; minimum effective sulfur (35 ppm at crush, 90 ppm during aging). In keeping with our philosophy of minimal intervention, this is the sum of our actions.

'23 Cabernet Sauvignon, bottled 6/25

From 1978 to 2007 Ridge produced a cabernet-based Santa Cruz Mountains bottling. In 2008 the name changed to Estate Cabernet to highlight the fact that all the grapes for that wine are grown by Ridge and come from the Monte Bello vineyard. In 2023 we purchased grapes from several high quality growers in the Santa Cruz Mountains. We decided to revive this label to indicate that the grapes for this wine, rather than being farmed by Ridge, come from outside growers.

JO (4/25)



PARTNERING VINEYARD SITES

Bates Ranch is near Mount Madonna in the Southeastern corner of the Santa Cruz Mountains AVA, at an elevation of 680 feet. Cabernet sauvignon and petit verdot are sourced. www.batesranch.com

Fellom Ranch is off Montebello Road, southwest of our tasting room, at approximately 2,250 feet elevation. Cabernet sauvignon, merlot, and petit verdot are sourced. www.fellom.com

Vidovich Vineyards, is across Montebello Road from our winery, at an elevation of 2,450 feet. Cabernet sauvignon is sourced. www.vidovichvineyards.com