

ON THE MARKET

Monte Bello Vineyard's Additional Vineyard Development

A Decades Long Planting Project Comes to Fruition

More than 40 years ago, Paul Draper approached the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) with a novel idea. Drawing on his deep historical knowledge, Paul recognized that the gentler slopes of the rugged Monte Bello Ridge—land owned by MROSD—had once flourished with winegrape cultivation in the late 1800s. His proposal was simple in concept: allow Ridge Vineyards to carefully steward this land, teeming with chaparral, and restore it to world-class winegrowing. In practice, however, the plan was far more complex.

From Concept to Conservation

After years of meetings, negotiations, and onsite visits, Ridge Vineyards and MROSD reached an agreement in 2014. RIDGE would be granted an agricultural easement on roughly 30 acres of MROSD land. In return, both parties would enter into a conservation easement on an adjacent 30 acres of RIDGE-owned property, ensuring that the land would be protected from



large-scale residential or commercial development. Under the terms of the agricultural easement, RIDGE is required to follow rigorous vineyard development and farming practices. Chief among these is the requirement that all vineyard blocks achieve USDA Organic Certification. Fortunately, we had already begun our journey toward organic certification in 2008. Still, the easement includes additional environmental safeguards, such as surveys for endangered plant and animal species and hydrological surveys to ensure the land's suitability for sustainable viticulture.

The project has been divided into six phases of vineyard development. Each phase must adhere to a detailed vineyard installation plan, followed by a comprehensive management and operations plan. These plans are reviewed and approved by an independent third-party expert and are monitored annually. To date, we've completed the first two phases, with 16 acres planted, and we are preparing to plant the third phase this summer. Fruit from the first phase has already made it into Monte Bello, and we have high hopes for the second phase, with its first harvest expected in 2025.

We are honored and humbled by the opportunity to farm these historic vineyards on MROSD land, and to continue building on the legacy of Monte Bello.

— Kyle Theriot, Director of Vineyard Operations, Monte Bello



JOIN US

Virtual Tasting

Friday, September 19, 2025
10 a.m. PDT

Join us as David Gates, Senior VP of Vineyard Operations; John Olney, Head Winemaker & COO; Shauna Rosenblum, Lytton Springs Winemaker; and Michael Torino, Senior VP of Global Sales take you through our fall release wines.

Scan for more information
ridgewine.com/fall-2025-virtual-tasting



RIDGE
VINEYARDS
PO Box 1810 | Cupertino, CA 95015



RECENT PRESS FOR THE FALL 2025 RELEASES

2024 Grenache Blanc
93 Points—Owen Bargreen, OwenBargreen.com

2023 Pagani Ranch Zinfandel
98 Points—Virginie Boone, JebDunnuck.com
95 Points—Tim Fish, [Wine Spectator](https://WineSpectator.com)

2023 Lytton Springs
98 Points—Virginie Boone, JebDunnuck.com
95 Points, HOT WINE—Tim Fish, [Wine Spectator](https://WineSpectator.com)

2022 Lytton Estate Petite Sirah
95 Points—Virginie Boone, JebDunnuck.com

2023 Santa Cruz Mountains Cabernet Sauvignon
93 Points—Owen Bargreen, OwenBargreen.com

2022 Monte Bello
98 Points—Virginie Boone, JebDunnuck.com
97 Points—James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com
97 Points—Clive Pursehouse, Decanter.com

ridgewine.com/trade

FIRST VINTAGE

Santa Cruz Mountains Cabernet Sauvignon

The Santa Cruz Mountains AVA

The Santa Cruz Mountains AVA—established in 1981—is one of California’s first recognized mountain appellations. Bordered by the Pacific Ocean to the west and the San Francisco Bay to the east, its steep slopes and cool maritime climate offer a unique environment for growing Bordeaux and Burgundy varieties. The original RIDGE founders started farming there in 1959, with Monte Bello becoming the cornerstone of our identity and a benchmark for American Cabernet Sauvignon. Over the decades, we’ve expanded our understanding of the region, working with neighboring vineyards to showcase the full range of what these mountains can produce.

The 2023 Santa Cruz Mountains Cabernet Sauvignon

In 2023, an opportunity presented itself—several of our neighbors in the Santa Cruz Mountains had fruit available. We sourced grapes from three vineyards: Fellom Ranch, Vidovich Vineyards (both located on Montebello Road), and Bates Ranch. All three sites lie within the Santa Cruz Mountains AVA. The quality of the fruit—and the wine it produced—made it clear we had something truly special.

Fellom Ranch Vineyard sits just south of us, on a spur of the mountain between our Torre Vineyard and Rousten Ranch. Roy “Bud” Fellom III planted his vines in the early 1980s and bonded his winery in 1987. We purchase cabernet sauvignon, along with small amounts of merlot and petit verdot from Bud. Vidovich Vineyard, a collaboration between the Vidovich and Dorcich families, lies between our Torre and Perrone parcels on Montebello Road. Bates Ranch, located near Mount Madonna at the southern end of the appellation, is a historic site known for producing structured, ageworthy wines. From this vineyard, we purchased cabernet sauvignon and petit verdot.

Our connection to the “Santa Cruz Mountains” name runs deep. In the early 2000s, before we began labeling our second wine from Monte Bello as

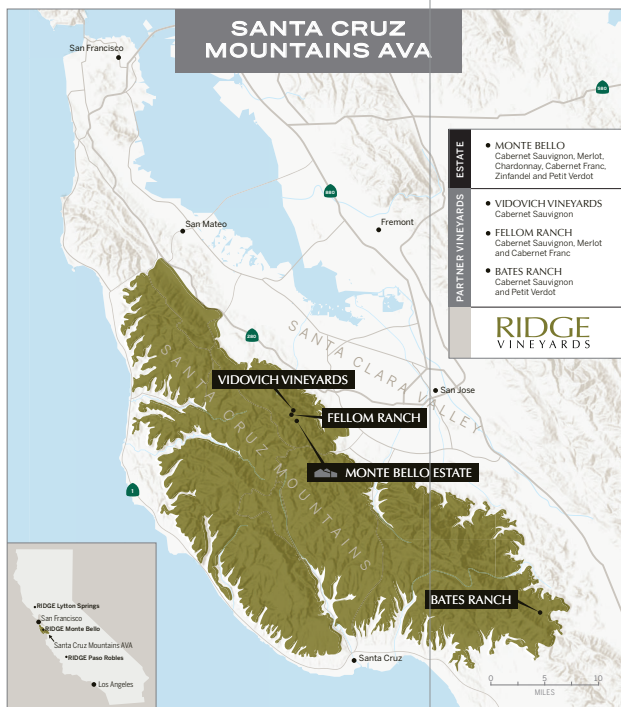


“Estate,” it was simply called “Santa Cruz Mountains.” With this new blend, we’re proud to bring the name back. Our original bottling was sourced solely from parcels within the Monte Bello estate. This new wine reflects a broader expression of the AVA, capturing the varied soils, elevations, and exposures of our mountain neighbors. It’s a return to a name with history, and a step forward into a broader vision of what Santa Cruz Mountains Cabernet can be.

— David Gates, Sr. Vice President Vineyard Operations



Scan to Watch the Film and Learn More
New Santa Cruz Mountains Cabernet Sauvignon from Ridge Vineyards



RIDGE 2025

Fall Releases

“Year after year, this is a ‘wow’ wine, herbal, lightly spiced in oak, with a lovely creamy, velvety texture and a backbone of well-resolved tannin supporting a medium-bodied, balanced spirit of mountain garrigue. These wines typically age 20–25 years or more.”

— *Virginie Boone, JebDunnuck.com*
on the 2022 Monte Bello



2024 Grenache Blanc

Site: Sourced from three vineyards in the Paso Robles AVA: Adelaida Vineyard, Halter Ranch Vineyard, and Fossil Creek Vineyard.



2023 Lytton Springs

Site: Located on the bench and hills separating Dry Creek and Alexander Valleys, just north of Healdsburg, Sonoma County.



2023 Santa Cruz Mountains Cabernet Sauvignon

Site: Sourced from three Santa Cruz Mountains partner vineyards: Vidovich Vineyards and Fellom Ranch, both neighboring Monte Bello, and Bates Ranch near Mount Madonna in the AVA’s southeastern corner.



2023 Pagan Ranch Zinfandel

Site: Located in Sonoma Valley, Zinfandel, interplanted with minor amounts of petite sirah, carignane, and alicante bouschet — oldest vines planted in 1896.



2022 Lytton Estate Petite Sirah

Site: The oldest petite sirah vines on our Lytton Estate were planted in 1901 and the youngest in 2008. Gravelly clay loam soils.



2022 Monte Bello

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



Top and Above: Santa Cruz Mountains vineyards
Right: Santa Cruz Mountains AVA map