RIDGE 2023
MONTE BELLO

Monte Bello Parcels: 72.8 tons from 57 acres (organically grown)
MONTE BELLO VINEYARD 89% CABERNET SAUVIGNON, 9% MERLOT, 2% 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: 84" (above average)
Bloom: Late June
Weather: Late and prolonged harvest due to consistently cool weather throughout the growing season.
Harvest Dates: 2 October - 10 November
Grapes: Average Brix 23.6˚

WINEMAKING & TECHNICAL DATA
Fermentation: Grapes destemmed, 100% whole berry fermentation. Fermented on the native yeasts. Natural malolactic.
Selection: Eighteen Monte Bello parcels
Barrels: 100% new, 95% American oak, 5% French oak
Aging: Twenty-one months in barrel
pH: 3.36

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, 65 ppm during aging; depth filtered at bottling. In keeping with our philosophy of minimal intervention, this is the sum of our actions.

2023 Monte Bello, bottled June 2025
After the condensed growing season of 2022 with above average temperatures, 2023 was a stark contrast. A long, cool spring followed by mild summer weather pushed veraison into mid-August. Harvest began in October and lasted well into November, making 2023 one of the latest Monte Bello harvests ever. The long maturation period resulted in a wine with supple tannins, ample acidity, and well-defined fruit. This exemplary vintage will develop over the next twenty-five years.
JO (4/25)

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: 2.8 tons/acre

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