

RIDGE 2020

MONTE BELLO

Monte Bello Parcels: 76.4 tons from 66 acres

MONTE BELLO VINEYARD 13.5% ALCOHOL BY VOLUME
84% CABERNET SAUVIGNON, 11% MERLOT, 4% PETIT VERDOT,
1% CABERNET FRANC

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: 22.4" (below normal)

Bloom: Mid-June

Weather: Decent rains in December led to dry weather in January and February. A very wet March and April helped the vines during the growing season. Unsettled weather in June saw several heat spikes in between cool spells. The rest of the summer was mild until the middle of August, when very hot temperatures and dry lightning ignited wildfires throughout northern California, followed by more warm weather in September.

Harvest Dates: 15 September - 9 October

Grapes: Average Brix 24.4°

WINEMAKING & TECHNICAL DATA

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

Selection: Thirty-six Monte Bello parcels

Barrels: 100% new, 95% American oak, 5% French oak

Aging: Twenty months in barrel

pH: 3.44

TA: 7.24 g/L

Hand-harvested; estate grown Monte Bello Vineyard grapes, organically farmed, 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, 129 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

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Exceptional single-vineyard wines since 1962.

2020 Monte Bello, bottled June 2022

Mild temperatures in March prompted an early bloom that coincided with the spring rains. This resulted in a smaller crop that, accompanied by more summer fog than usual, allowed for slow, steady ripening into September. After assembling thirty-six of fifty-eight lots, the wine was returned to barrel for a further twelve months. As a classic Monte Bello, it will benefit from a decade of aging and develop over another twenty years. JO (5/22)



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 tons/acre

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