

RIDGE 1999

CALIFORNIA

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

COAST RANGE

1999 Cabernet Sauvignon, Coast Range, bottled August 2002

Despite spring's late start, the grapes ripened fully, providing one of the finest cabernet vintages in recent years. In each vintage we make two cabernet-based wines from our estate vineyard—the Monte Bello, and the more accessible Santa Cruz Mountains. When possible, we make a third, designated simply "Coast Range." The parcels selected for this bottling produced some of the estate's most structured wines. We fined them with fresh egg whites and, for further softening, gave them twenty-eight months in air-dried american oak barrels. This full, complex wine is enjoyable now, and should be at its best over the next five to seven years. PD (6/02)

77% CABERNET SAUVIGNON,
19% MERLOT, 4% PETIT VERDOT

Alcohol 12.5% by volume

Tasting Notes

Aromas of creamy butterscotch/
oak/vanilla bean; complex
blueberry fruit, subtle notes of
plum skin, rose petal. Sweet stone
fruits in the mouth: black plum
and black cherry, a hint of
nectarine. Lively, balanced acidity;
chalky (yet elegant) tannins.

History

Our vineyards on Monte Bello Ridge provide grapes for three separate cabernet bottlings—Monte Bello, Santa Cruz Mountains, and Coast Range. When the rigorous selection processes for Monte Bello and Santa Cruz Mountains Cabernet were complete, some very good, more approachable lots remained. These were blended for the 1999 Coast Range, a lovely, accessible example of this fine vintage.

Vintage

Harvest Dates: 15 October - 12 November

Grapes: Average brix 23.4°, average pH at crush 3.32. Most of the vineyard blocks ripened fully within a three-week period in October.

Fermentation: No inoculation. Natural primary and secondary. Daily pump-overs reduced to avoid excessive tannin extraction. Pressed at eight days.

Barrels: 100% air-dried american oak, 32% new, 2% one year old, 66% two years.

Aging: 28 months in barrel



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Vineyard

First RIDGE

Coast Range: 1971

Location: Monte Bello Ridge, Santa Cruz Mountains Viticultural Area, overlooking the San Francisco Bay. Elevation 1600 - 2000'.

Soils: Decomposing Franciscan rock mixed with clay, laid over fractured limestone.

Training: Head-trained, cane pruned.

Growing Season

Rainfall: Over 48 inches

Bloom: Early June

Weather: A long cool growing season with beautiful weather at harvest.