

Ridge Somm Session

On Thursday, June 25, we hosted our first-ever Ridge Somm Session, in lieu of what would have been our 10th annual Somm Symposium. Over the past decade, we have had the privilege of hosting over 125 of the world's top sommeliers. We had an amazing group planning to attend the Somm Symposium this year, but the event was ultimately canceled due to the pandemic.

Sommeliers, wine directors, and restaurant service staff are vital to Ridge. Therefore, we wanted to connect with a few of our past Symposium alumni and discuss the issues and challenges facing the industry during these unprecedented times.

The event was hosted by our President, David Amadia, and Vice President of US Wholesale, Michael Torino. Our featured sommeliers were Brent Kroll, Proprietor and Sommelier of Maxwell in Washington, DC; and Jon McDaniel, Owner and CEO of Second City Soil and a Board Member of United Sommeliers Foundation.

Over the course of an hour, the hosts and experts discussed the industry and answered questions while tasting our 2018 Estate Chardonnay, 2018 Geyserville, and 2017 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon.

The panelists discussed how wineries could help restaurants and sommeliers. Takeaways and ideas included:

- Wineries providing restaurants and sommeliers with QR codes that can be added to wine menus or links on their websites that direct customers to short videos explaining the history, tasting notes, and pairing options for purchasable wines. We have created a document with QR codes for our current releases. These can be found under "Marketing Materials" at ridgewine.com/trade/current-releases.
- New website tools, similar to one that was recently added to Ridge's website (ridgewine.com/find-our-wines), enable customers to find their favorite wines at local restaurant locations.



- Adapting marketing strategy to begin focusing on younger wine drinkers, a demographic more likely to visit restaurants than others in our current environment.

The session ended on a hopeful note: both the hosts and sommeliers agreed that through mutual support within the industry, careful attention to staff and public safety, ingenuity, and adaptation, there is still a bright future ahead for wine, restaurants, and the people who love them.

If you missed this event, you can watch the full recording of our recent Somm Session by scanning the QR code below.

—Michael Torino, Vice President, US Wholesale



Ridge Somm Session
Scan to view the full recording
ridgewine.com/about/news/somm-session



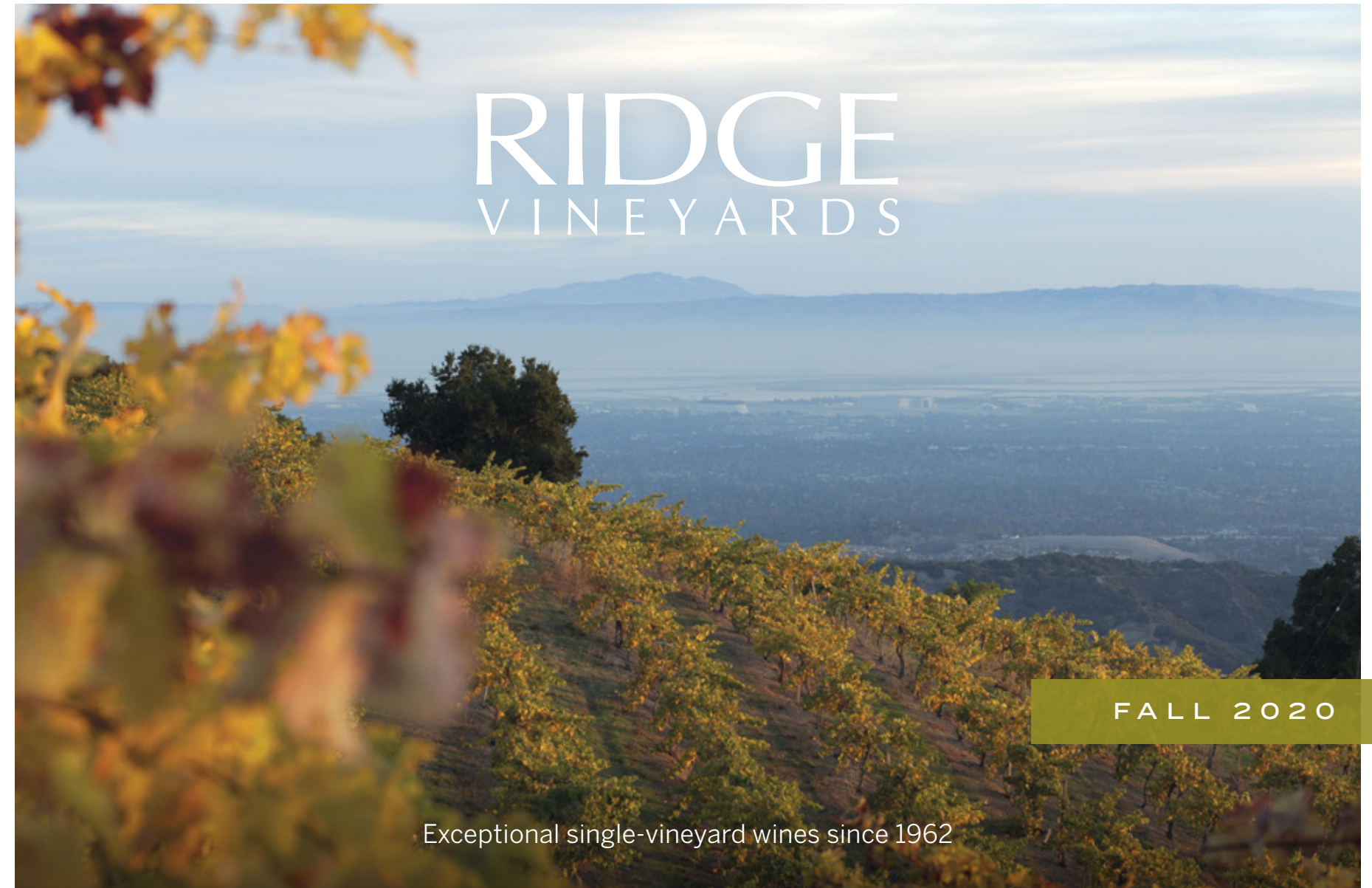
JOIN US

Virtual Tasting

Friday, September 18, 2020
10 a.m. PDT

Join us as our winemakers take you through our fall release wines.

More information:
ridgewine.com/fall-2020-virtual-tasting



RIDGE VINEYARDS
PO Box 1810 | Cupertino, CA 95015



2017 MONTE BELLO

98 – 100 Points
William Kelley, The Wine Advocate

97 – 100 Points
Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com

94 – 97 Points
Antonio Galloni, Vinous Media

IT STARTS IN THE VINEYARD

Lytton Springs — What Makes this Site so Special?

The History

The vineyard we now call Lytton Springs was part of the land once owned by Captain William Litton, who during the last half of the nineteenth century developed the springs and built a hotel just east of the vineyard for San Franciscans who arrived by train to “take the waters.” Paul Draper first saw the vineyard in 1972 and, based on its age (then already 80 years old), purchased grapes and produced Ridge’s first Lytton Springs bottling that year. In 1991, on the 20th anniversary of our first vintage, Ridge purchased the Lytton Springs winery and the old vines surrounding it, making it a true estate vineyard.

The Vineyard

Lying just north of Healdsburg on the benchland and gently rolling hills separating Dry Creek from Alexander Valley, Lytton Springs has proven to be an ideal site for zinfandel. Here, foggy mornings are eclipsed by warm, sunny afternoons and breezy late evenings. Soils are varied with a predominance of gravelly clay, which aids in moisture retention, ensuring that the grapes ripen slowly. These weathered, agronomically poor soils in the benchlands provide better balance to zinfandel vines and the wines made from them.

Our 100-plus-year-old zinfandel vines are interplanted with 20-30 different types of grapes — a textbook example of an old-vine vineyard — planted to field blends. For more than three decades, this site has produced the quintessential example of Dry Creek Valley zinfandel.

The Wine

Lytton Springs has become synonymous with classic Dry Creek zinfandel. It shows potent, ripe boysenberry and blackberry, but also a pronounced rusticity and earthiness often attributed to its blending varietals: petite sirah and carignane. Acid and tannin are firm, yet not overwhelming; in youth, at least, fruit predominates. This balanced, powerful wine becomes more nuanced with age, and it often holds for more than a decade.

The Winery

In 2001, we constructed our eco-sustainable Lytton Springs Winery. It is one of the most unique sites in all of Sonoma County. A natural extension of Ridge’s commitment to sustainable practices, this remarkable solar-powered facility built of straw bales and vineyard clay is a wonderful environment in which to experience our wines and learn about our natural winemaking traditions.



Today

We recently completed our new barrel building at Lytton Springs. The steel structure is 7,600 square feet and gives us the storage needed to accommodate the full fermentation capacity of the winery. As part of the project, we are also relocating our bottling line from the current production facility to a new dedicated space inside the barrel room. The new building went into immediate use following the bumper crop of 2019 and currently houses about 20% of our overall production for the vintage.

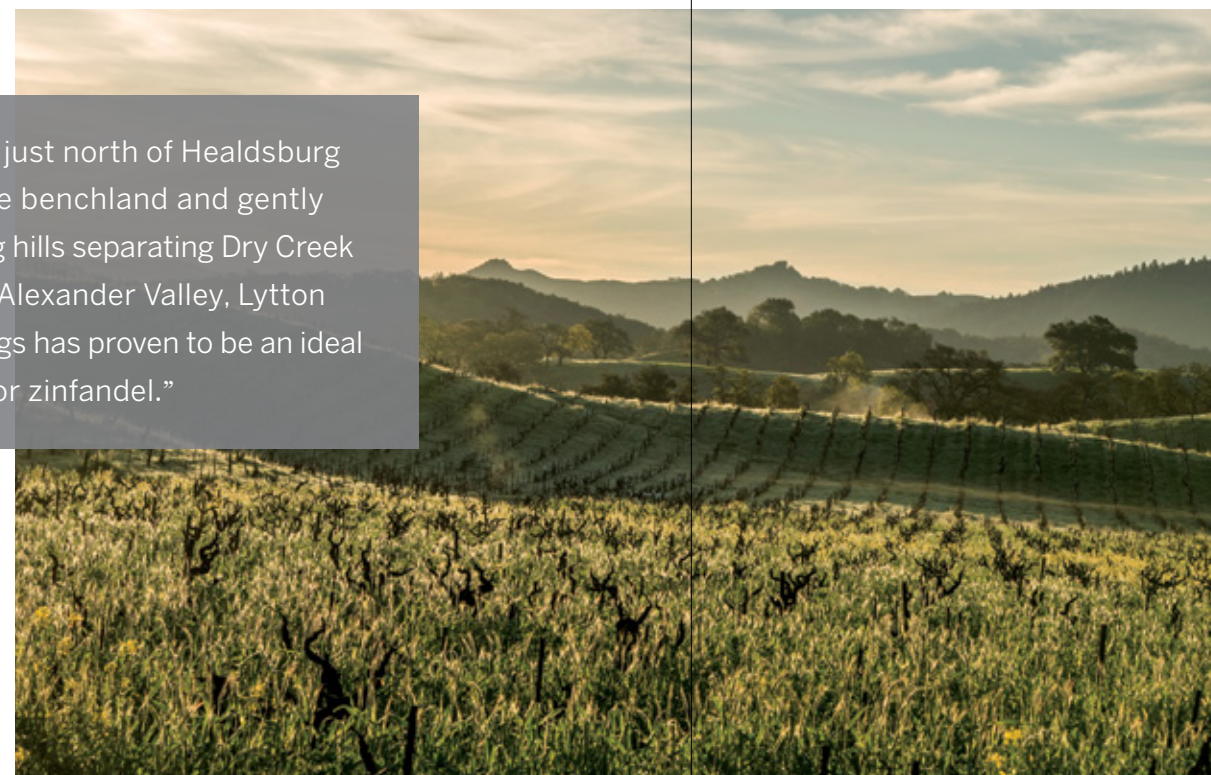
The 2018 Lytton Springs

We are excited to release this year’s Lytton Springs. Watch a short video of the winemaker, John Olney, as he explains the wine.



Scan to View the Video
Winemaker Tasting Notes with John Olney
ridgewine.com/wines/2018-lytton-springs

“Lying just north of Healdsburg on the benchland and gently rolling hills separating Dry Creek from Alexander Valley, Lytton Springs has proven to be an ideal site for zinfandel.”



RIDGE 2020

Fall Releases

“Destined to rank as one of the all-time greats from Ridge, the 2017 Monte Bello opens in the glass with youthfully complex notes of ripe plums, cassis, espresso roast and black truffles, with little apparent trace of its time in 100% new oak.”

— William Kelley,
The Wine Advocate

Below left: Lytton Springs winery & tasting room
Above left: Map of Lytton Springs area
Below: Lytton Springs vineyard



2018 Lytton Springs

Site: On the bench that separates Dry Creek and Alexander Valley appellations, north of Healdsburg in Sonoma County.

2017 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.



2018 Paganini Ranch Zinfandel

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



2018 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.