

The Ageability of Ridge Wines

With the release of our 50th anniversary bottling of Lytton Springs, we looked back at older vintages of all our wines and gathered thoughts from some of the top sommeliers in the world on the ageability of our wines and why including library RIDGE wines makes sense for wine programs and guests across the world. Check out what some of the sommeliers had to say:

Jim Rollston, MS, Lead Sommelier, *The Village Pub, Woodside, CA*

“For me, RIDGE is a winery where most of their range rewards aging. Obviously, the Monte Bello Cabernet is the best-known example, but I have a soft spot for the Zinfandels, especially Geyserville and Lytton Springs, both of which develop amazingly well.”

Clement Robert, MS, Wine Director, *The Golden Vines Awards, United Kingdom*

“I have always been impressed by the incredible ageability of not only the iconic Monte Bello but also Geyserville, Lytton Springs, and Estate Cabernet Sauvignon. To me, RIDGE is one of the best wineries in the USA and certainly one of the most iconic estates in the world.”

Brahm Callahan, Corporate Beverage Director, *Himmel Hospitality Group, Boston, MA*

“When I think about iconic wineries in the world that have stood the test of time, RIDGE is always in the conversation. The wines speak of a sense of place, show vintage expression clearly, and have maintained their identity and focus for almost 70 years now, and there really isn’t another winery that I can think of that has that kind of an uninterrupted track record.”

Phillip Dunn, Director of Spirits Buyer, *Wally’s Fine Wine, Beverly Hills, CA*

“It’s hard to guess the best bottle I have had. The one that stands out the most was the 1971 York Creek Petite Sirah from Spring Mountain in 2022. A 50+-year-old Petite Sirah I would have never guessed could be that complex and still have incredible concentration and aromatics of the old world but still fruity and alive on the palate.”

Brent Kroll, Sommelier, *Maxwell Park Wine Bar, Washington DC*

“Trying RIDGE on release is exciting, but in a sense it reminds me of seeing a trailer to a movie. It’s thought-provoking, I’m into it and I know it’s going to be a good movie. It’s not just Monte Bello or Lytton Springs, although those are obvious choices. I think of RIDGE as old vines, dry farming and really good people.”



Virginia Philip, MS, Master Sommelier/Wine Director, *The Breakers, Palm Beach, FL*

“How does a wine stand out on a wine list with over 2,200 selections? The ability for a wine to age well and gracefully is obviously a key component. Having accessibility to older vintages from the winery direct is non-negotiable for our program. RIDGE does both. When I think of the top California Cabernet Sauvignons that go the distance with taste, structure and distinction, without a doubt RIDGE jumps to the forefront of the list.”

Jon Leopold, Wine Director, *The Alinea Group, Chicago, IL*

“To not only have world-class wine but a story of consistency and longevity given the history of the winemaking, it’s no surprise that RIDGE and their wines continue to impress both me and my guests.”

Takenori Nakazato, GM, Chef Sommelier, *Jean-Georges, Tokyo, Japan*

“As a RIDGE fan, I am in awe of how many people continue to love the winery. I am confident that RIDGE will continue to lead the industry into the future with its innovative vineyard practices, management and working environment.”

Jesse Fenn, Director of Food & Beverage & Sommelier, *The London Club, Ontario, Canada*

“It is evident from viticulture to winemaking every step is taken to ensure a legacy of winemaking that continues to produce benchmark wines. After tasting past vintages of Cabernet and Zinfandel, it is clear the wines have aged beautifully and will continue a long path of evolution. These wines are approachable in their youth and remarkable with age.”



JOIN US

Virtual Tasting

Friday, September 20, 2024
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.

More information:
ridgewine.com/fall-2024-virtual-tasting



RIDGE
VINEYARDS
PO Box 1810 | Cupertino, CA 95015



RECENT PRESS FOR THE 2021 MONTE BELLO

“This is one of California’s most collectible cabs and from a classic, age-worthy vintage.”
— Jim Gordon, *JamesSuckling.com*

100 Points – Jim Gordon, *JamesSuckling.com*

99 Points – Owen Bargreen, *OwenBargreen.com*

97 Points + Cellar Selection – Matt Kettmann, *Wine Enthusiast*

96 Points – Matthew Luczy, *Robert Parker Wine Advocate*

95 Points – James Molesworth, *Wine Spectator*

ridgewine.com/trade

50 Years at Lytton Springs

"This year's release of 2022 Lytton Springs marks the 50th anniversary, since 1972, when RIDGE first produced a wine from the historic old vines at Lytton Springs. To celebrate this milestone, we sat down with Chairman of the Board, Paul Draper, and COO & Head Winemaker, John Olney, to capture some of their stories on film, including when Paul Draper first saw the vineyard in 1972 and purchased grapes and produced RIDGE's first Lytton Springs bottling that year. It's fascinating to listen to John Olney's early days becoming Assistant Winemaker in 1999 and the journey of building a new winery on our beloved estate vineyard, and ultimately hiring Shauna Rosenblum as Lytton Springs Winemaker in 2022. I hope you enjoy the video and the stories we will share on our website and social media in the months to come. Please join me in raising a glass to Lytton Springs' golden anniversary!"

— Mark Vernon, President & CEO, *Ridge Vineyards*

Here are some excerpts from the film interviews with Paul Draper and John Olney:

Our First Look at Lytton Springs

"So, we went over to [Dick Sherwin's] place, which was Lytton Springs. And I looked out over the vines there in the valley and up on the hills that were beautifully complete and said, 'Well, it looks good.' And it was raining, and, of course, middle of winter. And I said, 'Well, we will take it.' And he said, 'Okay, I'd love to sell you the grapes.' That was in '71 the winter. And so, the next year, we took it and made the '72 Lytton Springs, and it lived up to everything that we would expect, the '73, if anything was even greater. '74 was beautiful. Our contract from '72 on was based on a handshake. And in those days, handshakes, in Northern California, at least, were sacrosanct. They were more important than a contract."

— Paul Draper, Chairman of the Board, *Ridge Vineyards*

Purchasing the Vineyard

"We heard that Lytton Springs was for sale...and so we got together and said, 'Okay, we're going to buy this...' So, in 1990, we were able to buy Lytton. From that point on, we started making the wines and became evermore precise in what we were able to do."

— Paul Draper, Chairman of the Board, *Ridge Vineyards*



50 Years in the Making

"There aren't many California cabernets that can take a '73 or anything from the early seventies, open that bottle now, and have it be a solid bottle of wine. But we can do it with zinfandel; we can do it with Lytton Springs."

— Paul Draper, Chairman of the Board, *Ridge Vineyards*

"When I see that 50th anniversary on a bottle of Lytton Springs, it just reminds me of all of the vintages, all of the hard work, all of the effort that's gone into all of the wines at RIDGE, and the teamwork, the energy, and the passion for great wine that's there in the bottle for us every year."

— John Olney, Head Winemaker & COO, *Ridge Vineyards*



Scan to Watch the Film and Learn More
50 Years at Lytton Springs
ridgewine.com/lytton-50



Left: 1972 Lytton Springs back label.
Right: Old vines at Lytton. Top: Lytton Springs.



RIDGE 2024

Fall Releases

"As market trends and consumer tastes have changed throughout the years, RIDGE has remained steadfast in its commitment to creating tasty, balanced wines from the varieties that are best suited to its sites, thereby etching itself into the American wine industry zeitgeist."

— Janice Williams
SevenFifty Daily

2023 Grenache Blanc

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



2022 Lytton Springs

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

2022 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.



2021 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.



2021 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.