

The PICKS

FEATURE WINE

Ridge 2025 Lytton Springs Rosé

It's Rosé week so of course I have to choose one for the feature, and it just so happens that this week we tasted one of the best rosés I've had in a while... Ridge 2025 Lytton Springs Rosé. Now we've always been fans of Ridge, but I didn't even know they made a rosé, so this was a very pleasant surprise. This is from their Lytton Springs property in Sonoma's Dry Creek Valley, consisting of 40% Grenache, 26% Zinfandel, 11% Cinsaut, 11% Counoise, 10% Mataro, and 2% Carignan. It's a beautiful light copper color, rich in flavor "with aromas of white peach and rose petal. Light and fresh on the palate with notes of strawberry, minerality, and balanced acidity." Ridge is a sustainable, organic-practicing vineyard that has "championed single-vineyard winemaking, searching California for those rare and exceptional vineyards where climate, soil, and variety are ideally matched." They also have a storied history, having participated in the famous Judgment of Paris in 1976, so they're celebrating the 50th anniversary of that this year. Celebrate with them with a bottle of this exceptional rosé for \$37.99. Rosés aren't usually rated, but this got 92 points across the board, so we'll let that speak for itself.

WINE PICK

Two Mountains 2023 Syrah

A couple weeks ago, the winemaker from Two Mountain Winery in Yakima Valley, Washington stopped in, and we sampled several of his wines and were... well, we were impressed. Yakima Valley is within the larger Columbia Valley in Southern Washington, and from their property you can see two volcanoes, hence the name. It's run by two brothers who inherited the property from their uncle, one who grows the grapes and one who makes the wine. They have a very small microclimate in the rainshadow of the Cascades, leading to wines that are more European in style. We brought in several of their wines, but I'm going to lead with the Two Mountain 2023 Syrah. This bottle is sustainably grown estate fruit and 100% Syrah, aged primarily in French oak. "Your nose is serenaded with blue fruit, a little graham cracker spice and wet tobacco leaves with a sprinkle of black pepper. After... your taste buds are immediately hit with a blackberry/Bing cherry fruit melody, a touch of cola, a little cedar leaf, & and a savory herb mélange. With very pretty oak, great acid and supple tannins, this wine is pretty much knock, knock, knocking on all doors" for only \$22.99 a bottle.