

The PICKS

FEATURE WINES

Ridge 2023 Lytton Springs Zin Blend

Of course it's the #3 wine of the year... Ridge 2023 Lytton Springs, from Sonoma's Dry Creek Valley. Ridge just makes good wine. They specialize in high-quality, single-vineyard Zinfandels and Zin blends from Sonoma, as well as the famous Monte Bello Bordeaux-style blend from the Central Coast. If you struggle with red wines, this is one to try. Zinfandels are smooth and lower in tannins, and Ridge is all organic, uses native yeasts and no modern additives, and lists all their ingredients on the bottle, which they're not legally required to do. They're just proud of the product they make, calling it "pre-industrial winemaking." The Lytton Springs this year received 94-98 points across the board, landing it near the top of the list. Consisting of 76% Zinfandel, 14% Petite Sirah, 7% Carignan, 2% Alicante Bouchet, and 1% Mataro, "deeply structured and full of tension, this polished red displays a distinctive personality, offering bold blackberry flavors accented with savory anise, black pepper and dark Asian spices. Ends with big but refined tannins." Good minerality and acidity with a long finish, this would be a fantastic Thanksgiving or holiday bottle. And to get #3 for under \$100 is crazy, but even crazier is that this one is only \$59.99.

WINE PICK

Michel-Schlumberger 2023 Pinot Noir

My pick this week is our "house bottle" for Thanksgiving, the Michel-Schlumberger 2023 Pinot Noir from California. We tried this a few weeks ago and decided to load up on it as our choice for your Thanksgiving table, largely because it drinks really well at the affordable price of \$14.99. Michel-Schlumberger also happens to come to us from Dry Creek Valley in Sonoma. It was founded in 1979 but Jean-Jacques Michel, a Swiss native who scoured California for the perfect land to make wine. In 1991 he was joined by Jacques Pierre Schlumberger, a native Alsatian from a family with 400 years of winemaking experience. This 2023 Pinot Noir is 100% estate fruit, "classic in style with notes of cherry cola, baking spice, and tart wild strawberry," light with a dry finish. A good pairing with turkey and all the other fixings. It also happens to be \$25 online, so it's a bargain to boot.