



VINEYARDS:

GREEN VALLEY OF RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

This sub-appellation of the Russian River Valley AVA has become synonymous with outstanding Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. This very small and highly sought after microclimate is strictly defined by its cooler than average temperatures, the heavy fog that hangs late into the day, and its rich Goldridge soils; all of which culminate to produce exceptionally structured and aromatic wines.

Mill Station Vineyard, Dutton Ranch: This vineyard is the source of our single-vineyard Chardonnay. The forty-year old vines in the heart of the Green Valley are dry-farmed, and often late to harvest in despite of the fruit's ability to retain high natural acidity, and very distinct citrus flavor.

Mrs. George Vineyard, Dutton Ranch: While primarily renowned for its superior quality of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, Green Valley is certainly just as favorable to Sauvignon Blanc. Close to the heart of the Green Valley, located on the flats only yards away from Dutton's Home Ranch, this particularly cool climate site is ideal for accentuating the unique floral notes of the vineyard's Musque clone.

Marty's #2, Dutton Ranch: A prominent piece of both our reserve Green Valley blend as well as our Russian River Pinot Noir, Marty's Vineyard sits in the center of the valley on gently sloping, eastern facing hills comprised of the coveted Goldridge soils. Hearty Mt. Eden and 2A clones lend a strong foundation to our more delicate Green Valley pieces.

Tina Marie Vineyard: Meticulously farmed by grower Ron Black, the Tina-Marie Vineyard makes up the primary base for our reserve Green Valley blend. A balance of Dijon 115 and 667 clones produce a wine with the silky tannins and bright red fruit for which the Green Valley is famous.

RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

In the simplest of terms, this is our home base. Martin Ray Winery sits squarely in the geographic center of the appellation. Declared as its own AVA within Sonoma County, the Russian River Valley is defined by its cool marine influence, filtered in from the south by the Petaluma Gap. Even throughout the summer, a fog layer clings to the low lying valley regions late into the mornings, creating a temperature variation of nearly 35 degrees between the day and nighttime. Vintners in 1960s and 70s were quick to realize this valley's potential for growing excellent cool-climate fruit, and planted the area with what are now some of the most highly acclaimed Pinot Noir and Chardonnay vineyards.

Martin Ray Estate Vineyard: Our own little plot of 12 acres has been planted with 6 different clones, most notably Clone 37 (also known as the Mt. Eden clone), which Martin Ray brought from France in the 1940s. The vineyards sits just beyond the eastern border of Green Valley on a sloping hill of Goldridge soil.

Dempel Vineyard: Bob and Shirley Dempel have been pillars of the grape growing community since they began planting premium vineyards throughout Sonoma and Mendocino counties in 1977. Their respected reputation for quality and sustainability has made their Healdsburg Sauvignon Blanc ranches the cornerstone of our Russian River Valley Sauvignon Blanc.

Laguna Ranch: Only a few miles from our winery, Laguna Ranch on Frei Road grows wonderful Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay that has become an integral part of our Russian River Valley portfolio. The inherently cool climate makes it one of the last to ripen, often weeks after the rest of our white varietals, but the long season helps lock in the bold tropical flavors we love so much in our wine.



Hallberg Ranch: Planted along Sonoma County's famous Goldridge, this Dry-Farmed vineyard produces intense and complex fruit. Hallberg can see diurnal shifts up to 30 degrees, and given it's location, has both nighttime fog and a cool consistent daytime breeze, ideal for growing pinot noir. Sourcing from two small blocks, Clone 828, and most notably Cruz, create both structure and suppleness to our Hallberg Pinot Noir.

Jo. Belli Vineyard: Near the western edge of Russian River Valley, Joseph Belli has planted his Chardonnay to steep, terraced hillsides. Choosing Rued and Dijon clones, he farms organically with meticulous care, and has gained notable recognition from top critics for his vineyard. Planted to Rued Clone, this prized vineyard is known for producing opulent fruit with striking acidity.

DRY CREEK VALLEY

Immediately to the north of us, the Dry Creek Valley sits just beyond the reach of the marine influence, providing warmer summer temperatures than Russian River Valley. Rocky soils created from the natural uplift of the underlying fault line provide excellent drainage and, along with the warmer weather, make the region ideal for a number of Bordeaux and Rhone varieties. We source from small, family-owned plots on the hillsides of this narrow valley for a number of varieties including Zinfandel, Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot and Malbec.

Forchini Vineyard: This Family-owned vineyard set on gravelly eastern slopes of the valley is home to century old plantings of Malbec, Petit Verdot, and Cabernet Franc, all of which we source for small production bottlings. This well drained gravelly clay loam has a southwest exposure and receives full sun late into the evening making it an ideal location for fully ripe, clean, intense fruit characteristic of bordeaux varietals. The Forchini's also keep the environment in mind. While minimizing pesticide usage and integrating goats and sheep for cover crop control, they produce high quality grapes from a sustainable vineyard. The clay-loam and gravel soil is kept well drained and exposed to late afternoon sun to produce optimum ripeness in their grapes, which leads to excellent aromas and flavors in our wines.

Puccioni Ranch: As one of the oldest vineyards in the area, the Puccioni Family's "Old Vine" Zinfandel has been growing in Dry Creek Valley for over one hundred years. Currently farmed by third and fourth generation Puccioni family members, the vineyard is planted on clay-based soil mixed with some shale to create rockiness. With elevations between four hundred and one thousand feet, the climate mimics cooler weather and produces superior quality grapes by implementing farming methods passed down since 1904.

NAPA VALLEY

The region is synonymous with Cabernet Sauvignon and we've been working with growers in the valley for years. The famed valley and its surrounding mountains and hillsides are the source for our Diamond Mountain, Rutherford, Stags Leap District, and proprietary "Synthesis" Cabernet Sauvignons. As with many premiere contracts with famed vineyards, we cannot always disclose names and exact locations.

Constant Vineyards: We have a long and, fruitful relationship with Constant Vineyards high on the eastern slopes of Diamond Mountain. This location sits above the morning fog line, and enjoys warm days and a long growing season. One of the most distinctive traits of this site is its clay-loam soil comprised of red volcanic rocks from ancient eruptions and the occasional boulder left from a river that once flowed through the site.

Andrew Geoffrey Vineyard: Located lower on Diamond Mountain, Andrew Geoffrey is noted for its ability to grow concentrated, brooding Cabernets. Due to the uplift of the mountains from the valley floor, the soil here is a powdery mix of volcanic ash and porous tufa rock. It is not uncommon to find bits of obsidian hidden in the soil.



Candlestick Ridge: Situated on the north end of the Howell Mountain summit cap at 2,250' of elevation, this 26 acre vineyard, first planted in 1950, rests on a plateau overlooking the southeast face of Mount St. Helena and the whole of Pope Valley. The pure white volcanic ash and Tufa soils are poor and well drained leading to low yields and intensely flavored berries.

SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS

Mt. Eden is the historic home of Martin Ray, and although we now call the Russian River Valley our home, we continue to produce Reserve Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon from vineyards planted in the Santa Cruz Mountains. The Santa Cruz Mountains differ greatly in elevation, soil, and climate, and therefore produce distinct and unique wines compared to their Sonoma and Napa Valley counterparts.

Bald Mountain Vineyard: When describing the wine that comes from the Chardonnay grapes grown at the Bald Mountain Vineyard site, the first word that comes to mind is “minerality”. This vineyard sits high atop the mountain on the southwest slope, and is planted on white, sandy soil, reminiscent of the coastline below. Often the last Chardonnay to be harvested, it is also among our favorites.

Coast Grade: Our Santa Cruz Mountains Reserve Pinot Noir comes from Coast Grade Vineyard, located in the high stony slopes of the coastal side of the Santa Cruz Mountains, in the heart of Bonny Doon. Attentively farmed by Jim Beauregard and his son Ryan, these steep hillside vineyards planted North to South enjoy morning and evening fog from the San Francisco Bay and perfect conditions for reaching optimum ripeness while maintaining balanced acidity.

Beauregard Vineyard: Further inland from Bald Mountain, Beauregard Vineyard experiences a wider range of temperature fluctuations, including warmer days, and cooler nights. A loamy, but well-draining soil contributes to the concentrated, earthy flavors, and high natural acidity we've come to expect from our Santa Cruz Mountains Cabernet Sauvignon.

Fellom Ranch: Fellom Ranch looks inward toward the Santa Clara Valley from high on Montebello Ridge. The ranch itself has existed since the late 1920's, but not until the 1970's were the dramatic slopes painstakingly terraced and planted with several varieties, including the Cabernet Sauvignon which we have received from the Fellom's for nearly two decades.

Cooper Garrod Vineyard: The Garrod family began involvement with California agriculture and open space in 1893, purchasing lands from the Mount Eden Orchard and Vineyard Company. CCOF certified organic, this mountaintop estate bears fresh, dense fruit with lasting.

Ascona Vineyard: Ascona Vineyard is located on a sloping plateau at an elevation of 2,400 feet in the Santa Cruz Mountains (home to such famed wineries as Ridge and Mt. Eden). Though Ascona gets abundant sunshine, its elevation keeps it cool. This, and the site's well-draining decomposed sandstone and shale soils, provide ideal conditions for growing Sauvignon Blanc, allowing the grapes to ripen without getting overly sweet.