



Martin Ray

VINEYARDS & WINERY

HISTORIC LANDMARK, LEGENDARY WINES

MARTIN RAY

The name Martin Ray resonates deeply in the history of California Winemaking. Martin Ray was a pioneer, dedicated to crafting single varietal, region specific wine from 1943 through 1972 in Saratoga, the heart of the Santa Cruz Mountains. Mentored by the famed producer of early California sparkling wines Paul Masson, Ray took a decidedly Burgundian approach to his winemaking, and developed what is now one of the most historical properties in California, known as Mount Eden.

COURTNEY BENHAM, OWNER

Nearly twenty years after Martin Ray's passing, Courtney Benham stumbled upon 1500 cases of Martin Ray wine in a San Jose warehouse. Recognizing his good fortune, and his intent and drive to produce terroir driven wines, Ray's historical significance and philosophy resonated with him. Courtney purchased the brand, and since 1990 has been committed to the production of artisanal wines worthy of the Martin Ray name.

In 2003, Martin Ray Vineyards & Winery made its home in the Russian River Valley, on the edge of Green Valley at one of the oldest continually working wineries in California. With the ardent philosophy that great wine is not only the sum of more than just good grapes and a talented winemaker, but rather the result of an efficient, nimble whole, he has assembled a lean core team. This foundational approach, coupled with long term relationships with celebrated growers has led Martin Ray to produce quality wines sourced from the best growing regions California has to offer.

Today, Courtney and his winemaking team devote themselves to Ray's ideology of making "wines of place", by sourcing from hillside and valley floor fruit, they are relentless at telling the story of each exceptional appellation and vineyard.

OUR HOME

Located in the heart of Russian River Valley in Sonoma County, California, our historic winery site was established in 1881 and is one of the oldest continuously operated winery in Sonoma County. Courtney purchased the winery in 2003, continually striving to modernize the facility while incorporating elements of its history. The Russian River Valley appellation is most well-known for the varietals Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, which thrive in a cool climate with morning fog and moderate temperatures due to the coastal influence. This ideal location initiated replanting in 2011 of very own 12 acres of estate Pinot Noir vineyards, including two acres of the Martin Ray Heritage Clone 37.



Martin Ray

VINEYARDS & WINERY



ANGELINE

The foundation of the Angeline portfolio was actualized on the premise of offering varietally true wines at competitive prices. Courtney identified a gap in the market, finding few 100% Pinot Noirs that were true expressions of the varietal under 20.00. This inspired him to push the boundaries of several wines, in hopes to create a portfolio that would overdeliver within the category. Angeline, which means “Messenger”, launched in 2004 with that specific intent, and continues to gain accolades. The Angeline message is simple and clear: offer ready to drink, expressive, high quality wines that can be enjoyed every day.



WINEMAKING

Director of winemaking Leslie Renaud, and winemaker Raemy Paterson partner with consultant Keith Emerson, and experienced growers to keep her finger on the pulse of each vineyard. Every appellation has a specific set of needs in the vineyard – and in the winery – and expresses a distinctive sense of terroir once the grapes are in the bottle. Our winemaker begins shaping each wine while it's still in the vineyard and vinifies each in small lots at our winery in the heart of Sonoma's Russian River Valley. The result has become a collection of award-winning wines with an impressive breadth of terroir. Our wines are some of the finest wines made in California, and at prices that underscore our philosophy of giving the consumer real value.



FACILITY AND TEAM

Martin Ray Winery and Angeline Vineyards are both built on the foundation of cultivating relationships with growers across an array of distinctive regions, and blending their fruit with traditional and modern winemaking methods to create everyday wines of exceptional beauty. But the quality extends far beyond the fruit, and is a culmination of many hands and minds. With a state-of-the-art facility, the symbiotic approach between Courtney, Leslie, our growers, and the meticulous production crew yield wines that are of the highest quality. Above all, there is always finesse and attention to detail, and consistency and quality in each bottle.