



Since 1992, Windsor Oaks Vineyard and Winery has been one of the viticultural crown jewels of Sonoma County, encompassing 250 acres of ultra-premium winegrapes grown on a 710 acre private estate. The property is one of the most visually stunning locations in Sonoma County, with an elevation change of nearly 1,000 feet and views spanning from Mt. St Helena to the Pacific Ocean.

History of the Property

The properties of Windsor Oaks were once a portion of the Rancho Sotoyome that was granted in 1830 by the King of Spain to the relatives of General Mariano Vallejo. In the early 20th century the estate was acquired by a European winegrower, who added orchards of apples, prunes, and pears to the estate. Devastated by Prohibition, the vineyards and estate were sold to a Chicago industrialist and transformed into his private retreat. Architectural elements constructed on the property during this era, including a moat system, still remain and are in the process of preservation by the current ownership. In the mid 1970's a group of financial investors formed a public corporation named Balverne Cellars to acquire the estate. Balverne Cellars improvements included a 50,000 case winery and a large barrel and finished wine warehouse. Balverne Cellars became one of the few winery and vineyards to be publicly owned in California. In fact, they were acclaimed for the quality of their wines, in particular a 1982 Scheurebe that was served in the White House during the Reagan administration. The property was acquired by the current ownership in 1992.

Estate Terroir

The vineyard is uniquely situated, extending from the renowned Russian River Valley into the unique volcanic soils and elevations in key mountain vineyard blocks that produce the famous red wines of the Chalk Hill appellation. The topology and soils diversity of the property provide for 35 unique blocks of vineyards, some as small as ½ acres, others as large as 60 acres. The topology varies from flat to gently rolling to quite steep terrain allowing for vineyard blocks facing generally in a southerly sun exposure direction. The soils are composed of rich loam, clay, sand, chalk, river stones, volcanic ash, and quartzite. Over 400 acres of the property have been deeded to the Sonoma County Open Space District, preserving the land in perpetuity and designated "Forever Wild".

Windsor Oaks Wines

Over the years the Estate has supplied over 35 vintners with hand-harvested grapes. These wineries have released over 25 limited production vineyard-designated wines from Windsor Oaks.

Wineries having used Windsor Oaks grapes include Flowers, Pax (now Donelan Family Wines), Sonoma Cutrer, Merry Edwards, the Rosenblum family's new Rockwall Wines, Pali, Biltmore Estate, Wind Gap, Thomas George Estates, New Process Alliance, Brian Arden, Rosalynd Wines, Uptick, Kokomo, Ottimino, Monument Mountain Vineyards, Blanchard Family Wines, City Winery, Eric/Kent, Sojourn and Anthill Farms.

Only 10% of the Estate's grapes are used to produce wines under the Windsor Oaks label. Each wine is 100% Estate grown, produced and bottled in very small lots of one to twelve barrels (22 to 300 cases). Total wine production under the Windsor Oaks label is less than 2,000 cases.

In 2012, Margaret Davenport joined the Windsor Oaks team as winemaker. Margaret has been well known for many years as the winemaker at Clos du Bois as well as for her own wines under the Davenport label.

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