



axr napa valley
single vineyard collection

vintage 2023
overview

vintage overview

The 2023 vintage in Napa Valley will be remembered as a return to classic growing conditions, offering a much-needed reprieve after the extremes of 2022. The season was defined by its extended growing period, mild weather, and above-average yields. This combination led to wines of remarkable freshness, structure, and expressive character. Jean Hoefliger describes 2023 as a “vintage for the ages,” one that showcases the best of Napa Valley’s potential when nature cooperates. The harmony between weather, timing, and fruit quality yielded wines of exceptional balance and character, promising an outstanding future in bottle.



single vineyard series



Each bottle in our Single Vineyard Series is a tribute to the rare and remarkable sites from which we select our grapes. Handpicked from celebrated vineyards with whom we've nurtured decades-long relationships, these wines are a true expression of the land and its story. The vineyard names proudly grace each label, a testament to their singular character and history. Inside, the wine is crafted to reveal the nuanced diversity of terroir within our valley, capturing the essence of place in every sip.

At AXR Napa Valley, our wines are shaped to embody the differing qualities inherent to those appellations, distinct qualities manifest to those soil types. The nuances of climate and location heighten our sincere respect for these earthen soils. Whether grapes are harvested from cool or warm environments, valley floor, or mountain hillsides, AXR Napa Valley wines are crafted with these differences always in mind.

vineyard mission words

Using descriptive words for vineyards serves several important purposes,
each enhancing the overall experience and understanding
of the vineyard and wine they create.

mineral

pleasure

structure

high-def

balance

explosion

elegance

magic

complete

generosity

velvet

ritchie vineyard

Kent Ritchie is one of North America's most admired winegrowers. He is a self-taught viticulturist who planted Ritchie Vineyard in the Russian River Valley AVA on AxR1 rootstock in 1972. The site is exposed to the cooling effects of coastal fog that burns off in the late morning and allows for a longer growing season. This results in Chardonnay grapes with a more complex and nuanced flavor profile. The soil at Ritchie Vineyard is composed of Goldridge, a fine sandy loam that is known for its excellent drainage and nutrient retention. This, combined with the climate and topography of the area, contributes to the unique character and complexity of the Chardonnay grapes grown at the vineyard.

The vines are widely spaced at nine hundred and sixty-eight per acre and are low-yielding with an average of 2.5 tons per acre. The feature that stands out with Chardonnay at Ritchie Vineyard is the superb intensity of fruit flavors in combination with scintillating tension and vibrancy. This is a Chardonnay that winemaker Jean Hoefliger makes in a Burgundian style, which he typically enjoys himself. Ritchie Vineyard has become a benchmark for quality in the region and is highly respected by both winemakers and wine enthusiasts alike.



mineral



hudson vineyard

In our search to expand our Chardonnay program, we were presented with a rare and exciting opportunity to partner with Hudson Vineyard, granting us access to their prized Heritage Clone Chardonnay blocks (Montrachet, Wente and Hyde). This coveted fruit is among the most sought-after in Napa Valley, and for Jean Hoefliger, working with it has been a long-held dream, and an opportunity that comes once in a decade.

Spanning 200 acres in the Carneros region, Hudson Vineyards is a mosaic of meticulously planted blocks that reflect the area's unique landscape. The vineyard's founder, Lee Hudson, purchased the ranch in 1981 and has spent over three decades cultivating relationships with wineries that share his commitment to honest and expressive winemaking. His approach blends practical vineyard management with environmental stewardship, fostering harmony between the vineyard and the region's native flora and fauna.

generosity

crown point vineyard

Crown Point Vineyard's distinctiveness and desirability stem from a combination of advanced viticultural practices, a unique microclimate, and exceptional terroir. Situated in the Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara AVA, Crown Point benefits from its east-west orientation, which allows optimal sunlight exposure. This, combined with a higher elevation, fosters slow, even ripening, crucial for developing complex phenolic compounds in the grapes.

The vineyard's soils are primarily rocky and rich in minerals, with a mix of clay, loam, and sand. These well-drained soils force the vines to reach deep into the earth, resulting in low yields but highly concentrated fruit. The vineyard employs precision agriculture, using technologies like drone imaging and soil moisture sensors to monitor vine health, water stress, and canopy management in real-time. The combination of these factors, terroir, climate, and cutting-edge viticulture, make Crown Point Vineyard's wines exceptionally structured, with deep complexity, vibrant acidity, and the ability to age gracefully.



pleasure

sleeping lady vineyard



This west Yountville vineyard is named for the distinctive foothills behind the property, which look like a woman laying on her side. Larry Bettinelli invented and applied a new trellis system (Lyre System) that optimizes sun and air exposure for the clusters. The Bettinelli's are embracing new cutting-edge technology which tracks photosynthesis activity, vine stress levels, and phenolic evolution throughout the year. Basically, they have the most advanced farming technology in the Valley.

The site has alluvial soil from the Mayacamas Bench and is planted in an east to west orientation with gentle slopes. Placed on the southernmost tip of the Yountville Appellation, the climate is quite a bit cooler than St. Helena for instance, which yields wines that are elegant and feminine. This elegance when combined with the polymerization of Jean Hoefliger's winemaking style, creates a wine which shows magical elegance with an unbelievable mouthfeel and texture.

elegance

bennett vineyard



Located in the cooler Coombsville AVA of Napa Valley, this southeast-facing vineyard benefits from the coastal influence of the San Pablo Bay. The cooler temperatures, morning fog, and excellent drainage of the region create a long and even growing season, allowing the grapes to ripen slowly and develop intense flavors. Coombsville is renowned for producing wines with balance, structure, and vibrant acidity. This unique microclimate fosters a wine with deep blue and black fruit notes, complex aromatics, and a lush, rich mouthfeel, making it a standout addition to our collection.

At the heart of this vineyard is Richard Bennett, a pioneer in Coombsville viticulture. With a legacy of planting in the region and building enduring relationships with winemakers, Richard's dedication to excellence is reflected in every vine. As Jean says, "Once you enter Richard's circle of friends, you never leave it." This camaraderie and commitment to quality make Bennett Vineyard a perfect expression of the terroir and spirit of Coombsville.

explosion

beckstoffer to kalon vineyard



structure

Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard has a rich history that dates back to the late 19th century. The vineyard was first planted in 1868 by Hamilton Walker Crabb, one of Napa Valley's first winemakers, who recognized the potential of the Oakville region for producing high-quality grapes. The vineyard was initially named "To Kalon," which in ancient Greek means "highest beauty," and it quickly gained a reputation for producing exceptional wines. Today, the 89 acres owned by grower Andy Beckstoffer, which comprise the Beckstoffer To Kalon vineyard, are among the most famous vineyards in the world. Beckstoffer To Kalon is located in western Oakville, just south of the famous Robert Mondavi Winery.

The soil at Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard is composed of a mix of alluvial and volcanic materials, and even though it looks flat, it actually has an 18-foot slope. This type of soil and a small difference in elevation allows for good water retention and drainage, adds minerals and nutrients to the soil, and has an amazing depth, which is the key to building the immense structure of the wines. The Mayacamas Mountains provide early shade in the afternoon, which protect the long exposure in the hottest months of the summer. Because of all these special components in the vineyard, the characteristics of Beckstoffer To Kalon wine always have a taste that lingers on grainy tannins with an extremely structured and layered body.

harbison vineyard



Oakville is home to some of the most prestigious wineries in Napa Valley, including Screaming Eagle, Opus One, Bacchus, Dalla Valle and Harlan Estate, among others. These wineries have gained international recognition for producing some of the most exceptional wines, which have contributed to Oakville's reputation as a premier wine region. Sitting in the 'Bermuda Triangle' of where these famous sites intersect is a small, family owned estate called Harbison Vineyard.

Rooted in the iron-rich, red volcanic soils that define Eastern Oakville and cultivated with meticulous micro-farming, this vineyard represents a winemaker's dream for Jean Hoefliger. On his first visit, the moment he tasted the grapes he recognized their extraordinary potential to produce a world-class wine. It was an unforgettable experience, as it marked the first time he envisioned the wine's greatness before ever crafting it himself.

Pat and Joe Harbison purchased and developed Harbison Vineyard in 2005 and planted it in small blocks to facilitate micro-farming and enable its wines to express the estate's varying soil types and selection of Cabernet Sauvignon clones.

dynamic

v madrone vineyard



balance

AXR Napa Valley retained the vineyard name “V Madrone” to honor and respect the rich history of the estate we acquired in 2017. By preserving the name V Madrone, we pay homage to the legacy and heritage associated with the vineyard, recognizing the deep-rooted connection between the land, the vines, and the community that has been nurtured over time. The site, planted in 2002, has an incredible sense of place nestled against the Mayacamas Mountain range at the base of Spring Mountain. V Madrone Vineyard is characterized by its sloped, east-facing orientation, which allows for early shade, preserving the grapes’ delicate flavors and maintaining optimal acidity. The gravely soil composition adds depth and complexity to the wines, contributing to their exceptional tannin structure, captivating aromas, and vibrant acidity.

The 3.5 acres of Cabernet Sauvignon planted in V Madrone are rooted in a wide variety of soil types from the riverbed that runs through the property to the soils deposited over millennia from the Mayacamas Mountains. All told, these grapes yield an array of spice and fruit flavor profiles with beautiful acidity and balance. The presence of Coastal Redwoods on the property lends an enchanting quality to the wines, with an explosion of earthy notes transporting you to the estate’s Fairy Circle, a unique patch of Redwoods that are the offspring of one ancient mother Redwood.

denali vineyard



velvet

Denali Estate is a 42-acre property in the hills of St. Helena, which looks down on the Joseph Phelps Vineyard. Exactly 14 acres of Cabernet Sauvignon vines are planted on the site. Denali features three different terrains with terraced hillside sections that are comprised of gravelly and sandy loam soils. The west-facing orientation of the vineyard ensures that it receives sunlight exposure throughout the day. This exposure pushes the grapes to ripen earlier, resulting in rich flavors and concentrated sugars, contributing to the wine's structure, depth, and intensity. In terms of ripening, this vineyard tends to be the first single vineyard to be picked during harvest.

We pick it on the earlier side to ensure that we retain the acidity and tannin structure for which that Jean Hoefliger prides himself. The wines produced from Denali Vineyard are known for their alluring opulence balanced by structure, with unabashed larger-than-life fruit profiles and deeply bold tastes. The wines produced from this site are consistently lush and inviting, making them crowd-pleasers. Add to that a serious mineral tension, and the wine is often described as an iron fist snug within a velvet glove. Walt and Katherine Schlotfeldt, the proud owners, have a fascinating history deeply intertwined with the vineyard and the land it encompasses. In 2005, captivated by the beauty and potential of the St. Helena hills, they acquired the estate and vineyard, laying the foundation for their legacy.

AxR1



AxR1 stands as the flagship wine of AXR Napa Valley, a 100% Cabernet Sauvignon that unites the very best lots from our distinguished single vineyard sites. It is the ultimate expression of Jean Hoefliger's artistry in blending, bringing together the finest characteristics of each vineyard into one complete and harmonious wine. According to Jean Hoefliger, it is the most powerful wine he has created in the past decade. Designed to embody a complete and harmonious reflection of the vintage, AxR1 stands as a testament to AXR's relentless pursuit of excellence and its dedication to showcasing the finest expression of Cabernet Sauvignon in Napa Valley.



This exceptional wine captures the essence and soul of AXR, reflecting the unique character and energy of the property. It is crafted with Jean Hoefliger's philosophy at its core, meticulously selecting the best lots from different vineyards and enhancing them to create a wine of unparalleled quality. More than just a blend, AxR1 is a tribute to Napa Valley itself, embodying the DNA of the single vineyard sites that contribute to its creation. Crafted before the single vineyards are blended, AxR1 is the very definition of AXR's image, a wine of exceptional caliber meant to be cherished by wine lovers worldwide.

complete