



AVA DESIGNATIONS & DESCRIPTIONS



SUISUN VALLEY * LANZA-MUSTO VINEYARDS

Outstanding quality fruit serving super premium to luxury category wines - Suisun is amongst the favorites for Napa Wineries looking to outsource grapes.

Marine influence of San Pablo Bay & Suisun Bay and part of the California North Coast AVA.

The Valley's climate variances supports the production of both cool climate and warm climate grapes.

Suisun Valley lies within the southern end of two ranges of the Coast Range, the Vaca Mountains to the east and the Mt George Range to the west.

Suisun Valley terminates in the south at the marshlands of Suisun Bay. To the north Suisun Valley rolls up into Wooden Valley at the Napa County line.

Length: approximately 8 miles

Orientation: north to south, split mid valley to two fingers

Suisun Valley lies within Coastal area climates characterized by cool moist winds blowing inland from the ocean and San Francisco/San Pablo Bay almost continuously from May through early Fall. Spring frosts often mitigated by proximity to Suisun Bay.

Climate Type: mid region III as classified by the University of California Davis system of heat summarization by degree days.

Accumulation: averages roughly 3,350 degree days per year. mid valley avg 3,250 to 3,450 degree days per year upper valley avg 3,700 to 3,750 degree days per year

Suisun Valley consists of a mixture of soils, zoned within the valley floor, and additional none typed soils within the undeveloped hillsides.

Soil types include: Brentwood clay loam San Ysidro sandy loam Sycamore silty loam Rincon clay loam AVA

Width: approximately 3 miles at widest point



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Wine Grapes Available from Suisun Valley:

Barbera
Cabernet Sauvignon (Valley, Clone 8)
Cabernet Sauvignon (Clone 169)
Cabernet Sauvignon (Clone 15)
Cabernet Sauvignon (KOCH Ranch)
Malbec
Merlot
Mourvedre
Gamay
Petite Verdot
Petite Sirah
Primitivo
Sangiovese
Chardonnay
Riesling
Sauvignon Blanc
Muscat Cannelli
Syrah

Cabernet Sauvignon Clones Descriptions:

Cabernet 169: The Cabernet 169 is a French clone that came to the US and was planted by UC Davis in 2003. Since then, it has been gaining popularity in all the major Cabernet growing regions, especially on Mount Veeder. It has good berry size, high vigor, and a well-balanced acid to sugar ratio. The wine can be higher in alcohol depending on the winemaking style. It was created to produce a big and bold Cabernet with intense complexity. The color is a vibrant, deep red. The mouth feel tends to be bold and linger. This grape is definitely for the adventurous winemaker. (selling out as we speak)

Koch Cabernet: The Koch ranch Cabernet is farmed on incredibly rocky soil. The soil absorbs most of the moisture therefore producing a more intense fruit. This ranch is only 8 acres, so please reserve your cases as soon as possible. We always sell out of the Koch Cabernet. (selling out as we speak)



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Cabernet 15: This Cabernet Clone originates from Aquitcuine, France (South East France, Bordeaux, largest grape region in France). It is known for its high yield, high levels of Anthocyanins (attributes to aging and color), and high tannins. The wines are described as having raspberry, cherry, plum, and cocoa notes. It has an intense body and is structurally solid. Definitely an age worthy Cabernet.

Cabernet 8: The Clone 8 Cabernet Clone was one of the most popular plantings in France and then in the US in the 1990's. From our research, it has been said that it was one of the plantings that came to California in a suitcase. Clone 8 is strong Cabernet producer that yields about 6 tons to the acre. The wines have great fruit characteristics, deep color, good sugar to acid ratio, and are structurally sound. The tannins are strong.

Brunello Clone Sangiovese: One of the big reasons we planted this varietal is because the valley provides hot days and cool nights. The temperature can swing over 50 degrees depending on the time of year. Sangiovese eats this type of weather up! This high producing varietal soaks up the sun and enjoys the break under the cool night air.

Barbera: A wine made from the Lanza-Musto Barbera grapes gives off notes of dark cherry, plum, and boysenberry.



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PASO ROBLES

Paso Robles is one of California's emerging AVAs. It has grown from a sleepy town to a high end wine growing and wine producing region. Paso Robles Wine Country is ideally located along California's Central Coast, conveniently between San Francisco and Los Angeles. Over the past decade the number of wineries has more than tripled, and Paso Robles is now home to nearly 200 wineries. Winemaking on the Central Coast began when the Franciscan Friars traveled through California establishing Missions. The Missionaries started planting grapes in 1790. You can still see these vines growing today. Since the original plantings of the Missionaries, Paso Robles has become a top destination for farmers to plant grapes. Many famous people have planted vineyards and started wineries in this region. For example, Ignace Paderewski, the Polish pianist purchased 2,000 acres in the 1920's. He planted Petite Sirah and Zinfandel and eventually opened York Mountain Winery; which is still in existence today.

Paso Robles is comprised of 26,000 acres of wine grapes. It is one of the fastest growing wine regions in California and on the Central Coast. It has a diverse topography. There are rivers, roiling hills, flat lands, and mountains. The soil is comprised of bedrock, weather granite, marine sedimentary rocks, and volcanic rocks. Because of the many different soil components one vineyard block could contain several different soil types.

In terms of grapes, Paso Robles is known for growing Zinfandel, but has gained recognition for Bordeaux and Rhone varieties. The AVA likes to produce non-traditional blends. It is a valley that doesn't follow the rules and expectations of tradition winemaking. The winemakers of Paso Robles like to make their own rules.

Musto Wine Grape Company will be offering the following wine grapes from Paso Robles: Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Pinot Noir, Petite Sirah, Syrah, Zinfandel, and Old Vine Zinfandel.



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PASO ROBLES

The Paso Petite Sirah resides on the East side of Paso Robles. Days are hot for a longer period of time than the west side but the temperature will drop down to 50 degrees and below at night. The grapes ripen while maturing slowly to produce a wine with aromas of blueberry, raspberry, and black coffee. The wines from this area show deep color, are full bodied, and have a smooth tannic structure.

The Paso Merlot, and Syrah are sourced from Tolosa Winery from their "Meeker Vineyard" blocks. The Syrah is the Shenandoah Clone and on 5BB rootstock. Finally, the Merlot is Clone 3 and on 5BB rootstock.

The Paso Zinfandel and Old Vine Zinfandel are sourced from the Steinbeck Vineyard. The Zinfandel resides on east-west rolling hills. The soils are calcareous and are farmed by a multiple generation vintner.

The Pinot Noir is sourced from Opolo Vineyards of Paso Robles. The Pinot Noir vineyards are located in the Willow Creek AVA. This region cools down earlier than the East side. The area is known for getting any varietal ripe and mature. The soil is very calcareous which produces a very elegant Pinot Noir.

The Cabernet is sourced from Parrish Templeton Vineyards. These grapes go to wineries such as Opolo and Justin. It is located in the "Pomar Junction" area of the Templeton gap. The soil consists of clay topsoil, over-lying a fractured calcareous base. This vineyard was created to produce high end Cabernet.

Varieties from Paso Robles:

Cabernet Sauvignon
Cabernet Franc
Merlot
Pinot Noir
Petite Sirah
Syrah
Zinfandel
Old Vine Zinfandel



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LODI

Recently named Wine Region of the Year (see video above) & voted Winery of the Year by Wine Enthusiast Magazine Lodi is certainly on the rise! Some notable wineries to check out are Mettler Family Vineyards, Zinderella Vineyards, Michael David Winery, and Lange Twins Winery just to name a few.

The Lodi Appellation is a federally designated American Viticulture Area recognized for the distinctive quality of its wines. Located directly east of San Francisco at the edge of the Sacramento River Delta, the Lodi appellation is noted for its classic Mediterranean climate and its distinctive sandy soils that provide the perfect environment for the production of world-class wines.

The Lodi appellation was first approved in 1986 and allowed wineries to label their wines with Lodi listed as the grapes' origin.

At first only a handful of small local vintners produced a "Lodi" designated wine, but as the quality and reputation spread, wineries began sprouting up across the region. Today, with nearly two dozen wineries in the appellation, and over a hundred "Lodi" labeled brands on the market, Lodi is one of California's most exciting new appellations.

Zinderella Old Vine Zinfandel:

The inspiration for the Zinderella brand has been drawn from the perseverance & willingness to never give up on a dream! From humble beginnings to overcoming many obstacles & challenges, this grapes embodies so much more than just wine.

From the heart of the esteemed Lodi Appellation, in a land recognized as the Zinfandel Capital of the World; our grapes inspire the deep Zinfandel Flavors and attributes of the journey! This is our "Zinderella Story".

All the grapes sourced for the Zinderella brand are Old Vine. Specifically, Zinfandel vines over 30 years old. If you are looking for a new, interesting, and complex Zinfandel, then Zinderella is for you!



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LODI

Other Grapes available from Lodi:

Alicante
Barbera
Cabernet Franc
Cabernet Sauvignon
Carignane
Grenache
Malbec
Merlot
Mixed Black
Petite Sirah
Pinot Noir
Ruby Cabernet
Sangiovese
Zinfandel
Old Vine Zinfandel

Valdepena
Albarino
Balck Muscat
Chardonnay
French Colombard
Malvasia Bianca
Muscat
Pinot Grigio
Riesling
Sauvignon Blanc
Thompson Seedless
Viognier



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CONTRA COSTA

Located below Suisun Bay and East of the Oakland Hills, Contra Costa is the premier growing area for Italian varietal wine grapes. Many of the vines grown in this area are considered ancient. The Mediterranean climate produces wines with bold features and good color. The soil is deep and sandy, making the grapes fight for their water, only increasing the intensity of the fruit. Think big bold reds, with leathery notes, and supple tannins.

Varieties from Contra Costa:

Aglianico
Montepulciano
Nero D'Avola
Sagrantino
Mourvderre



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AMADOR

There's Gold in them hills and not just the shiny kind. We're referring to the type that hangs off the vines in Amador County. While steeped in Mediterranean winemaking tradition, for Wineries and Home Winemakers alike, Amador represents a terrior where wine grapes reign supreme.

Located in the western foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountain range in central California, Amador County boasts 2,700 acres of wine grapes - - a high percentage of which are farmed organically - - and 25 wineries. The majority are in the northern part of the county in the Shenandoah Valley and Fiddletown appellations, near the town of Plymouth.

In these areas, vines are planted almost exclusively on rolling, oak-studded hillsides, ranging from 1,200 to 2,000 feet in elevation, in Sierra Series soils - - primarily sandy clay loam derived from decomposed granite.

These friable, moderately dense soils effectively retain Amador's 36 to 38 inches of annual rainfall, enabling most growers to dry-farm their vineyards.

Dry-farming, and the fact most vines are planted on their own roots or on self-regulating rootstocks like St. George, results in low crop yields averaging four tons per acre. These small yields, the vines' sparse canopies (allowing excellent sunlight penetration into the vine), and Amador's high solar radiance - - what the French call luminosity - - insure complete maturation of the fruit.

Amador's warm climate also promotes full ripening of the grapes. Classified as a high Region 3 in the UC Davis heat summation scale, Amador is comparable to St. Helena - - but cooler than Calistoga - - in northern Napa Valley. While Amador heats up earlier in the day than those appellations, it rarely exceeds 100 degrees, a frequent occurrence in St. Helena and Calistoga. Equally important, temperatures typically drop 30-35 degrees in the evening as breezes cascade down from the Sierras. This rapid cooling helps the grapes retain the acidity essential to balanced wines.



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AMADOR

Amador's production of robust, intensely flavored red wines also is attributable to its high percentage of old vines: roughly 600 acres out of a total of 2,700 are 60 years or older, including several vineyards dating to the 19th century. These deeply rooted, head-trained vines, primarily zinfandel, found in vineyards such as Deaver, Fox, Ferrero, Esola and Lubenko, produce tiny crops of small-berried grapes which produce the heady zinfandels for which Amador County is renowned.

Varieties Available:

Cabernet Sauvignon
Old Vine Zinfandel
Sangiovese
Tannat
Zinfandel



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CENTRAL VALLEY

The Central Valley, California's agricultural heartland, is actually 2 valleys that stretch almost 500 miles down the center of the state. The Sacramento Valley and San Joaquin Valley are bordered on the east by the Sierra Nevada Mountains and by the Coast Range to the west. The total acreage under wine grape cultivation in the Central Valley dwarfs all other California regions.

Varieties Available:

Alicante
Barbera
Cabernet Franc
Cabernet Sauvignon
Carignane
Grenache
Malbec
Merlot
Mixed Black
Petite Sirah

Pinot Noir
Ruby Cabernet
Sangiovese
Zinfandel
Old Vine Zinfandel
Valdepena
Albarino
Balck Muscat
Chardonnay
French Colombard
Malvasia Bianca
Muscat
Pinot Grigio
Riesling
Sauvignon Blanc
Thompson Seedless
Viognier



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NAPA & SONOMA VALLEYS

Napa Valley, located north of the San Francisco Bay, is known for its outstanding grape growing regions. With a combination of Mediterranean type weather, geography, and geology it allows for premium quality grape growing.

Napa Valley was really put on the map as a world class wine region when the Paris Wine Tasting of 1976 resulted in Napa Wines being the favorite in a blind tasting. Today, Napa Valley is home to almost 400 wineries.

Napa Varieties Available:
Cabernet Sauvignon
Merlot

The Sonoma Valley Chalk Hill vineyard is known for its chalky, white ash soil that consist of volcanic ash. A sub appellation of the Russian River Valley, it has warm days and cool breezes.

Sonoma Varieties Available:
Cabernet Sauvignon



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WASHINGTON STATE - RATTLESNAKES HILLS

The surface layers of vineyard soils are based primarily in loess, which is mostly wind-deposited silt and fine sand derived from the sediments of the 'Missoula' ice age floods. The content of the soils consists of a mixture of minerals derived from both the local basalt bedrock and the granite and limestone of northern Idaho and Montana.

Most of the soils are classified as silt loams (mostly Harwood-Burke, but also Wehl and Scoon), which are low in clay. The low clay content creates well-drained soils, encouraging the vines to root more deeply, a factor generally associated with high quality grapes and wines. It also creates an inhospitable environment for phylloxera, an aphid-like pest that feeds on the roots of grapevines. Due in large part to the clay-poor soils, the Yakima Valley is one of the few places on earth where European wine grapes (such as Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Pinot Noir) can still be grown on their own roots, also a factor generally associated with high quality.

The shallow soil profile contains large chunks of calcium-caked gravel and calcium carbonate horizons called "Caliche". In most areas, the caliche forms a conspicuous white layer under the topsoil that adds mineral complexity. The deep roots of the vines penetrate through the surface layer of loess, which averages 18 inches in thickness throughout most of the vineyard, and into the underlying calcium-rich substrate. This gravelly, high pH substrate forces the vines to struggle, an additional factor associated with high quality grapes and wine.

About Being Own-Rooted:

An Own-Rooted vine is a vine that has no rootstock. This is not common in most wine regions around the world. The rootstock & vine grafting was necessary at one point to protect from specific diseases such as Phylloxera. The Washington soil type is made up of a fine silt loam which Phylloxera hates - this is why they can plant Own-Rooted vines.

It is said that there are differences in the wines from Own-Rooted vs. Rootstock Grafted Vines. There is much debate around this issue. It looks like you will have to be the judge.



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WASHINGTON STATE - RATTLESNAKES HILLS

About the Merlot:

The Merlot Clone coming from this vineyard has clusters that are small to medium in size. The berries are small and round. This clone produces a high vigor vine that creates a dense canopy. Yield is usually around 3-5 ton acre depending on the growing season.

The clone produces a soft, full-bodied, fruity wine full of many different complexities. A great Merlot that can stand alone and age - or be added to a blend to give the wine that extra punch of structure.

Other Varieties from Washington State:

Merlot
Cabernet Sauvignon
Cabernet Franc
Pinot Noir



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KING'S RIVER - FRESNO COUNTY

The King's River Vineyard is located in Sanger, CA - Southeast of Fresno, on the way to Squaw Valley, Tahoe and the Sierra Foothills.

The vineyard is made up of 40 acres of white ash & sandy loam soil. The vineyard has been in existence since 1954 and the family has grown everything from grapes for wine and raisins to peaches, plums, and apricots on this little piece of paradise. However, they ultimately decided to focus on what they love most - boutique style wines. Each block is meticulously managed. They thin leaves, drop fruit to secure intense flavors, and drip irrigate as to not over-water the vines. This family definitely produces grapes of distinction.

Varieties Available:

Cabernet Sauvignon (Clone 337)

Petite Sirah

Alicante

Syrah

Barbera

Cabernet Franc

Tempranillo

Primitivo

Albariño

Muscat

Chenin Blanc.

Their Wine Awards Include...

- 2014 Reserve Petite Sirah- Silver Medal
- 2014 Syrah- Bronze Medal
- 2014 Alicante Bouchet- Bronze Medal
- 2015 Reserve Albarino- Bronze Medal