

DUTTON *Goldfield*

THE VINEYARDS OF DUTTON-GOLDFIELD WINERY

Dutton Ranch and Russian River Valley have long been recognized as premier sources for Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. By 1998 when Dutton-Goldfield Winery was founded, wine lovers were beginning to distinguish place names like Freestone, Fort Ross, Occidental and Cazadero, all sleepy towns in far west Sonoma County. California's most progressive winemakers were heading west, where the effects of the nearby Pacific Ocean and the proximity of coastal ridge tops combined to reveal vineyard land unique in the world. "Site selection is crucial in the Sonoma Coast and other cold-coast regions," explains Steve. "The cold winds and heavy fogs are not forgiving. Out here if your vineyard isn't just the right combination of elevation, exposure, varietal and clone, you can easily end up with unripe grapes on your hands in late October. This isn't the kind of problem most California growers are used to facing. But when it all comes together, you've got grapes no winemaker in the world would turn down."

THE QUALITY OF THE WINE STARTS WITH THE GRAPES

Foggy, cool mornings that give way to unexpectedly warm days, followed by fog again in the late afternoon, create tenuous growing conditions that ripen the fruit slowly, allowing the sugars, acids and flavors to mature together. "We harvest small, tight bunches of grapes with chewy skins, brown seeds, concentrated fruit and spice flavors and high natural acidity. These unique conditions lead to wines of great intensity and beauty that also reflect our special part of the world," explains Dan. "Dutton Ranch Chardonnay is coveted for a reason. Their old vines in the coolest Green Valley locations enable the winemaker to produce wines of great depth, breadth and richness, while still retaining the core of bright acidity and fruit that is essential to a great Chardonnay," Dan continues.

VINEYARD PERSONALITIES

Dutton Ranch is comprised of over sixty separate small vineyards, each with its own characteristics. Most of the wine from our chosen vineyards (seven Pinot Noir, four Chardonnay) goes to comprise the Dutton Ranch blends. Certain specific lots from unique pieces of land with great individual personality will be bottled on their own as small releases of sub-vineyard designated wines.

Dutton-Goldfield's Dutton Ranch Chardonnay emphasizes the bright crystalline citrus flavors and tropical overtones that reflect the pair's vision of classic Russian River Valley Chardonnay. The Rued Vineyard Chardonnay is produced from a hillside vineyard planted by Warren Dutton in 1969 with a high percentage of a particularly floral, high-toned Chardonnay clone, now broadly known as the Rued clone. This is a wine with exceptional richness, intense tropical aromas and exotic flavors.

The Pinot Noir vineyards Dutton-Goldfield selects for their wines have an even broader array of flavor differences. Grapes from the east side provide darker fruit flavors with higher tannins, while the western vineyards impart more spice and red fruits to the wine. Dutton-Goldfield's Pinots range from classic blackberry, cherry and spice flavors in the Dutton Ranch blend; to an elegant Burgundian structure and cranberry aromas in the Devil's Gulch; deep, ripe blackberry fruit in the Galante; and rich, dense boysenberry with exotic spice notes in the Freestone Hill.

In any given year, Dutton-Goldfield Winery might release five to upwards of ten different wines from the cool climes of Russian River Valley, Sonoma Coast, and Marin County to the south. Steve and Dan are constantly searching for new vineyards where everything comes together perfectly.