



Visitation By Advance Reservation Only
Wednesday Through Sunday

Not Open To General Public

Get in Here!

We welcome you to join us for tasting at our new estate vineyard and winery.

A new quiver of wines awaits Croix Estate clients. Come and enjoy our single-vineyard Rose' of Pinot Noir, our Estate vineyard old-vine Zinfandel, our compelling single-vineyard Chardonnays and Pinot Noirs, and a barrel sample of the upcoming release of our GSM red blend! There is something on tap for all of our devoted enthusiasts.

Want to know what is so special about our new home?

You, of course.

You are among the very first to be invited to a tasting experience that will not be made available to the general public.

Croix Estate is exclusively private, accepting clients who are on our allocation list and their friendly referrals.

Reserve Today

(707) 595-3803

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2017 Ruxton Sands Rose' of Pinot Noir Ruxton Vineyard, Russian River Valley

This is our first rose' and one that requires a full 45 minutes of decanting!

Located in a cold-bottom pocket of goodness between Graton and Camp Meeker, Ruxton Ranch benefits from alluvial runoff from surrounding ridges where Goldridge soils break down into porous, sandy bases—an ideal growing environment for achieving perfection in the glass. We pick our rose' of Pinot Noir bright, loaded with flavor and food cutting acidity. Fans of Mediterranean, summer styles of rose' will absolutely love this wine. So, pull down a plate of oysters, fresh garlic and olive oil toast points, and enjoy the warm days ahead!

8 Barrels Produced





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2016 Wood Estate Old-Vine Zinfandel Croix Estate Vineyard, Russian River Valley

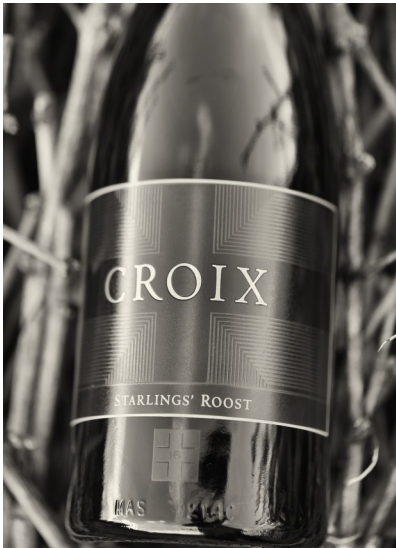
This is our second vintage release of estate Zinfandel and it is a jet-black, powerhouse-beauty not to be missed! Planted to Zinfandel and Alicante' Bouschet (a cross-breed of Petit Bouschet and Grenache), our estate vineyard is over 100 years old and sits at the eastern opening of the Russian River Valley AVA. The environment is a diurnal shifting of extremes between hot days and cold nights at full exposure. Soils here are dense, silty clay and suited to Chardonnay, or deep rooted, established Pinot and Zinfandel. The site's attributes produce a wine that is plush, luscious and viscous, yet balanced with bright, palate clearing acid that has a mouthwatering effect on the finish.

In the early stages of ownership of this property, we considered ripping the vineyard to make way for Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. Two vintages later and we are grateful that cool heads prevailed. We expect great things for this property as we move the vineyard management to an organic based approach. If experience is a guide to future expectations, we will witness the regeneration of the vineyard into a healthy, diversified ecosystem, producing Zinfandel worthy of bearing the Croix name for decades to come.

15 Barrels Produced



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2016 Starlings' Roost Chardonnay Morelli Lane Vineyard, Dutton Ranch

One step on this epic plot of land post harvest and it becomes clear how special this place is. The air is bone-chilling cold, yet the sun pierces through the breezes in waves like tiny warm fingers brushing the cheeks. On a clear day, one witnesses the Bodega fog-bank closing in on the headlands, summoning an end to the sun's reign on the day. The most remarkable sight are the starlings that come by the hundreds to dance the skyline before settling in to roost among the old-growth oak trees.

This is a primordial environment, nestled in a quintessential environment for inducing perfection in the glass.

5 Barrels Produced



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2016 12 Rows Chardonnay Ritchie Vineyard, Russian River Valley

With its beautiful old vines nestled on a rolling northwest-facing hillside in the heart of the Russian River Valley, the Ritchie vineyard earns our respect. This is our debut vintage from this world-class vineyard.

First planted in 1972 the site is ideal for producing Chardonnay of remarkable stature. The sandy Goldridge soils from an ancient seabed combine with volcanic ash deposits and pockets of tufa rocks and sloping bench lands leading into the Russian River to create a remarkably unique “Grand Cru” site that produces wines of intensity and great natural acidity. Rare in production and perfection, this is a wine not to miss!

4 Barrels Produced

Our Founding

All ideas have ridiculous beginnings to paraphrase the late philosopher Albert Camus.

Nine years ago a scrap of paper was left on a desk with the simple inscription that read, “croix”, in lower caps with no explanation. It was the beginning of a meandering path of seemingly ridiculous possibilities and the seed of a plan to do something extraordinary.

We have always said, “You have to have a little bit of a pirate in you to work in the wine industry.” With founding Croix Estate, this statement finds truth in the volumes of random, questionable efforts engaged to get to this moment: the opening of our new winery.

The initial concept of Croix was a messy collage of random ideas and wines: shock art labels, uncommon grape varieties, uncommon wine regions, no wine made more than one vintage, and on it went from idea to idea, most of which were done, being done, or being re-conceptualized by hundreds of others in search of the unique within the winemaking community.

There is a common saying in the wine business, “There are no new ideas in the wine industry, just different iterations on the same variety.” We happen to believe this is a lazy-marketer’s concept because it overlooks the value of grit and integrity at the foundation of all great works of art. We cannot count the times we have *not* sat in deep reflection after having tasted yet another average wine. The simple truth is, in our opinion, among the many thousands of wines produced today, profound instances are very rare, and the thread of commonality among the remarkable renditions is always the grit and integrity of effort behind the production.

It was in the winter of 2010, during a blind tasting of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay from multiple wine regions, that a pursuit became obvious and clear for Croix: How do we enter the crowded space of luxury Pinot Noir and Chardonnay producers and consistently produce wines that are profound?

It is tempting to spin the glorious successes we have experienced from day one with producing our first experimental vintages of Pinot Noir (2009) and Chardonnay (2011) to present day. However, the humble truth is this: our first Pinot Noir was heavy, over-extracted and fat handed; our Chardonnay flabby, one dimensional, and over-oaked. In sum, not even close to worthiness of being bottled as Croix Estate. Hence, the long, deliberate, and frustrating path we have taken from a word on a shag of paper to this day.

So, what can you expect from us and the wines we are making at Croix Estate? Pinot Noirs that are *full* of silky, flavorful goodness; Chardonnays ridged with acid and layered with mouthwatering elegance; Zinfandels that are on par with the greats in Sonoma; a GSM red blend that *rocks the socks* off of red blend enthusiasts; and, a visitation experience that is west-county-cool, one-on-one, and not available to the general public.

How does it get any better than this?