



LANDMARK VINEYARDS GRAPE SOURCES

In addition to the 11 acres of chardonnay that we own and farm in the town of Kenwood in the heart of the Sonoma Valley, we are fortunate to have developed close relationships with some of the region's and the state's leading grape growers. It is quite frequently said that wine is made in the vineyard. Our many talented growers, profiled below, certainly help add credibility to this axiom.

Sonoma Coast

Armagh This Sonoma Coast site is just a few miles west of Petaluma in the Chileno Valley. It supplies us with both Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, all Dijon selections that do well in this cooler climate. The vineyard was planted by Eric Neil, Landmark's consulting viticulturalist for the past eight years.

Heintz is located just northeast of the town of Occidental. The clone 4 Chardonnay planted here is usually the very last to reach ripeness due to its proximity to the Pacific Ocean which is about 8 miles to the west. Fruit character is marked by very good acidity. Heintz's own Dutch Bill Creek label and several others including Williams Seylem have been making outstanding wines from these grapes.

Kanzler is another Sonoma Coast pinot vineyard planted by Eric Neil. It has both Dijon clones 667 and 115, and Pommard. Planting density of 1,089 vines/acre and restrictive rootstocks, 101-14 and 420A hold down vigor and cropping is carefully controlled to yield less than 3 tons per acre. Although we have been making wine from this site for six years now, 2004 marks the debut of a Kanzler vineyard designated bottling.

Flocchini Another site planted by Eric Neil, this vineyard is the source of both Chardonnay, Wente and Robert Young, and Pinot Noirs, Pommard, 777, Swan and La Tâche. Although all the vines here are young, the first impressions from this site are of wines with excellent flavors and great potential, based on our early tasting, and the reputation of neighboring sites (Griffin Vineyards and Keller Estate) along the Lakeville Highway corridor.

Keller Estate The Lakeville Highway corridor is an ideal location for both Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. We have been getting a single block of Pinot for several years. It contains clones 828, 667, 114 and 777. Vine spacing here is extremely tight with over 2,100 vines/acre, twice that of many vineyards. This permits each vine to produce less fruit and makes for extremely even ripening and concentrated flavors. This fruit has been a component of our Grand Detour bottling.

Petersen This site is just southwest of Cotati and is planted to Dijon clone 96. While many sites tend to be too warm for this clone the Petersen site is well suited. Harvest tends to be late in this locality and the small berried clusters combine intense flavors with good backbone acidity. Grower Gary Petersen's family has owned this land for three generations, and is still active in the dairy industry.

Sonoma Valley

Bald Mountain This is a unique site located at over 1,600 feet elevation in the Mayacmas Mountains just east of us. The vineyard is dry farmed and planted to an old Wente clone that is noted for expressively flavored wines. Average vine age here is over 25 years, and this property, owned by John and Mary Thacher, is probably one of the most scenic in all of Sonoma County. Farming is the work of Joe Votek, one of Sonoma's most skilled grape growers, who also produces his own Zinfandel from vines grown adjacent to this 15-acre chardonnay block

Beltane Ranch Just south of Bald Mountain, this mountain vineyard shares many of the same climatic and scenic traits. It is one of the oldest chardonnay vineyards in Sonoma Valley, over 35 years old and still going. Vine age and dry farming keep yields at two to three tons per acre, a quality factor of key importance.

Miwok Ranch This Sonoma Valley site is planted to both Dijon clone 76 and Robert Young chardonnay. The management and care of this property is meticulous; every vine is carefully balanced and best practices are employed throughout the year. These grapes add juicy fruit forward character to our Overlook chardonnay bottling.

Sangiaco This third generation Sonoma family of farmers have been producing top quality grapes for wineries throughout the state for many years. Few people can match the Sangiaco's dedication or skill. The chardonnays that we purchase from them each year are amongst the best of the vintage. We currently buy from 3 unique blocks of grapes, all within the Carneros appellation.

Thornton Ranch This large mountain property is farmed by Joe Votek. Dijon clone chardonnay tends to set extremely small clusters in this setting and average cropping is never more than three tons to the acre. Every vintage has had intensely concentrated flavors and has been a key component in our Overlook bottling.

Rodgers Creek Created in collaboration with Landmark, this new site along the Sonoma Mountain ridge line is planted to Robert Young, See, and Wente selections of chardonnay, all noted for their distinctive flavor profiles. Over three years in the development, we harvested our first crop in 2005. Early signs are of intensity, power and great depth of flavors from these young vines.

El Farolito This syrah vineyard is planted to 4 different clones and is farmed organically by Phil Cotturi, one of Sonoma County's pioneers in such practice. The amphitheater-like site is late to experience bud break and tends to ripen its minimally cropped fruit late in the season. The wine has a deep color and scents of mushroom, leather and black berries, and has also shown an ability to age well, developing exquisite secondary bottle bouquet after several years.

Parmelee Hill This site is planted to Dijon clone 76 Chardonnay. An early ripener, the clusters are typically quite small and the wine shows a nice concentration of flavors, balanced towards forward fruit and easy drinkability. Father and son Steve and Ned Hill bring over thirty years of experience to the job.

Russian River Valley

Lorenzo This vineyard is the source of our vineyard designated Chardonnay. Planted in the mid 1970's to the Wente clone, this site is renowned for the distinctive minerality that its clayey soils impart to this intensively flavored clone that is capable of making extremely well aging wines.

Martinelli - Woolsey Road This Russian River appellation vineyard provides us with a consistently apple flavored fruit that blends so well into our Overlook Chardonnay. The Martinelli family has long been involved in grape and fruit growing and has earned a reputation for producing outstanding wines from their numerous vineyard sites in the famed Russian River appellation.

Bennett Valley

Frost Watch This vineyard is planted to clone 4 which shows excellent character in this cool site. Grapes from Frost Watch have been a component of the Damaris Reserve chardonnay for the past couple of years. Now in its tenth leaf, the vines are producing exceptional quality thanks to the site and conscientious farming by owner and winemaker Brett Raven.

Monterey County

Allen located at 2,100 hundred feet in the Gavilan Mountains, this vineyard has produced high quality Dijon clone 96 from its terraced and ridge plantings. The soil profile is quite restrictive, with about 2-3 feet of decomposed granite forming the topsoil. Irrigation is from artesian springs that require pumping up to the vineyard blocks several hundred feet above. Cool evenings and ocean fog in the mornings ensures slow ripening.

Talbott Vineyards, Sleepy Hollow This mature Santa Lucia Highlands site is planted to a Martini selection. The cool climate of this site produces intensely flavored fruit that enjoys long hang-times and acidities that are the highest of any vineyard each year.

Santa Barbara County

Bien Nacido Vineyards Although Santa Barbara's Santa Maria Valley is about 300 miles to the south of us, its worth the drive. Famed for their cool growing climate, the chardonnays from this area have found their way into leading producers' wines throughout the state. We have been fortunate to join the ranks of wineries sourcing grapes from Bien Nacido. A new development in 2005 is our purchase of Pinot Noir from their Solomon Hills Ranch just to the south of the Santa Maria appellation. We anticipate growing recognition for this fine vineyard, planted to Dijon clones 777 and 113.

White Hawk This vineyard is located in Cat Canyon, near the small town of Los Alamos. The east-west trending canyon is exposed to the cool Pacific Ocean air flow and old ocean beach sand forms the soil profile. The grapes are clones 4 and 5 chardonnay but the flavors are uniquely Santa Barbara, crisp granny smith apples with tropical fruit flavor accents.