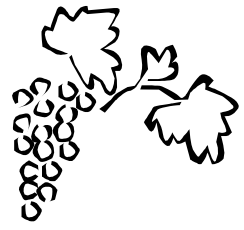




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The Grape Vine Newsletter

Chiles Valley AVA - Napa Wine Country

The Chiles Valley appellation, one of the hidden gems of the Napa Valley wine producing region, located in California's world renowned wine country, has a long history of wine making. Production of wine in the Chiles Valley dates back to the mid 19th century, when in 1844, Colonel Joseph Ballinger Chiles received the region known as the Rancho Catacula land grant from General Vallejo. The Colonel began to develop the fertile land, establishing a grist mill as well as planting the areas first vineyards on his property.

Today, the Chiles Valley AVA covers an area of approximately 6,000 acres, with more than 1,000 acres under vine. Zinfandel, Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc are a few of the more popular varietals grown here with great success and often labeled with both the "Chiles Valley" and "Napa Valley" designations.

This narrow and spectacular appellation in the Vaca Mountains, located along the northeast side of the world renowned Napa Valley wine producing region, may best be described as a "valley within a valley". Located 1,000 feet above sea level, the Chiles Valley appellation runs northwest to southeast, creating an open funnel for northwesterly winds which produce cool, dry air channels, leading to a rapid drop in temperatures during the evenings.

The terroir is unique to the Napa region, as cooling bay breezes that affect the Napa Valley floor do not reach as far inland as Chiles Valley, making the climate more continental than maritime. Partly due to this occurrence, the Chiles Valley District has a longer growing season than most all other Napa Valley appellations.

Chiles Valley wines tend to be quite fruity with supporting acidity and rounded tannins. Sunny days develop sugars while cool winds keep acidity at an advantageous level. Soils on the valley floor are not overly fertile, but are also not entirely austere. They are alluvial and loamy. The soils within the appellation are uncommonly well drained with the overall terrain gently sloping toward a series of creeks, which act as a natural drainage for surface as well as subterranean water which is believed to be the basis for high quality grapes.

Catacula Lake Winery

The beautiful Chiles Valley is rich in history beginning with the original inhabitants, the Wappo Indians, who have long had an often intimate relationship with the land. In the early days of California's history, the Southern Wappo Indians thrived in this valley, finding great sustenance in a lively juice made from the berries of the Manzanita tree. Today's modern inhabitants find pleasure in the wines created from the wonderful fruit of this rugged, mysterious appellation.

In the 1960s, the Edward Keith family purchased the land now known as the Bar 49 Estate, situated in the heart of Chiles Valley. For years, they operated the Bar 49 summer camp for boys and girls, a non-profit organization that allowed children from all social levels to learn about farm living, horseback riding, boating, fishing, water-front sports, archery and arts and crafts. Presently, the Bar 49 Estate is home to Catacula Lake Winery and vineyards.

"This is the fulfillment of a dream," says Edward Keith. "Our winery is a tribute to the historical importance of the area. We want to serve and educate everyone who visits our gorgeous ranch and vineyards." In the awe-inspiring setting perched above the bright blue waters of Catacula Lake, visitors to the winery are invited to relax on the patio and enjoy the serene backdrop, or picnic by the lake and take in all the scenic pleasures this spectacular area has to offer.

While enjoying a truly wonderful glass of Zinfandel and chatting with our host Rick Keith, we enjoyed an amazing view of the picturesque lake and rugged hills through the hacienda-style tasting room windows. At that moment we realized that these surroundings were some of the finest in the Napa region.

With their first vintage at this new facility in 1999, Catacula Lake Winery is committed to creating wines that are truly reflective of the Chiles Valley terroir; a region that is still largely wild and about which very little has been written with regard to viticulture and vinification. The winery currently produces a Zinfandel, Sauvignon Blanc, and a Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot blend called Rancho Cuvée. New vineyard plantings of Petite Sirah, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Cabernet Franc suggest more exciting varietals are soon to come.



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Wine Gift Baskets

Our wonderful collection of Wine Gift Baskets, Corporate Gift Baskets and Gourmet Food Gift Baskets are perfect for any occasion. **Customizable** - You can choose to include only reds, only whites, or a combination of red and white wines. You can even substitute bottles of our fine Private Label Wine (see below) with any wine gift basket we offer. We are definitely the most unique and complete Wine Gift Shop online!

Wine of the Month Club

Because California is widely regarded as the finest wine growing region in America and one of the best wine producing regions in the world, the vast majority of our featured wines are from **California's finest, boutique wineries**. Now and then, when our wine experts find an outstanding selection, we may feature wines from some of the best growing regions of Washington and Oregon. However, the vast majority of our featured wines are California wines - arguably the best wines in the world.

- **You pick the number of bottles** - Monthly Wine Club memberships can be either 1-bottle per month or 2-bottles per month.
- **You pick the Wines** - all red, all white, or a mixture of both red and white wines. **You pick the Frequency** - Wine Club deliveries can be Every Month or you can Skip Months between deliveries.
- **You pick the Duration** - Wine Club memberships range from 2 to 12 months in duration.
- **You choose how to pay** - you can pay monthly or prepay the wine club membership up front - it's totally up to you.

We give you all the choices - **You make all the decisions!** No other clubs can compare.

Personalized Label Wines

We have a great selection of wine label templates available on our website that you can use to create your very own Private Label Wine. Simply click your favorite label template and change the words. You can also take a digital photo, or create your own label design and email it to us. Either way, we will print professional quality labels and apply them to your choice of our fine private wine selections. **Minimum order - only 1 bottle!**

Our private label wines come in either red or white varieties and you can mix and match them as you please. You can even choose to substitute private label wines in any of our wine gift baskets!

Private Label Wines are perfect for Birthdays, all Holidays, Thank You, Congratulations, House Warming, Corporate Gifts and Promotional Items.

The California Wine Store

We always purchase a few extra cases of the fine wines we send our Wine Club members, and the wines we include with our Wine Gift Baskets. While these fine wines last, we make them available to you in our Wine Store, at discount prices that you won't be able to resist. As a bonus, our Wine Club members can buy more of the wines they really enjoyed at these discount prices, while they are available. **Check it out NOW!**

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This Month's **Classic Wine Club** Selections

Every month our **Classic Wine Club** members receive one or two bottles of our featured wines. The wines you get depend on the membership you are enrolled in. If you are not yet a member, we invite you to join the fun. Happy wine tasting.

Catacula Lake Winery Napa Valley, California

2001 Sauvignon Blanc, Napa Valley Only 380 Cases Produced

Medals/Accolades:

Wine Enthusiast – 88 points
Orange County Fair – Bronze Medal
Riverside International Wine Competition – Bronze Medal

Vineyard Notes:

Estate grown on the 1025 acre Bar 49 Estate home to Catacula Lake Winery and vineyards, situated in the heart of the new Napa Valley appellation called Chiles Valley; an area known for its long warm summers, cool evenings, unique soils, and slopping hillsides.

Winemaker Notes:

A polished Sauvignon Blanc with a clean yeasty scent and enticing aromas of casaba melon, almonds and grapefruit. The palate is laced with layers of Ruby Grapefruit and Melon with hints of toast and figs. Classic grassy mid palate accentuates the fruit.

Food & Wine Pairing:

This wine is a wonderful accompaniment to shellfish or grilled fish dishes such as swordfish, salmon, and halibut. Also pairs nicely with poultry prepared in a light sauce.

2000 Zinfandel, Napa Valley

Medals/Accolades:

Connoisseurs' Guide – 88 points
Orange County Fair – Silver Medal
California State Fair – Silver Medal
California Zinfandel Championships – Silver Medal

Vineyard Notes:

Estate grown on the 1025 acre Bar 49 Estate home to Catacula Lake Winery and vineyards, situated in the heart of the new Napa Valley appellation called Chiles Valley; an area known for its long warm summers, cool evenings, unique soils, and slopping hillsides.

Winemaker Notes:

Classic Zinfandel aromas of ripe Blackberries with regional flavors of white and black peppercorns. Oak supports the wine with sweet spice in the nose and mouth, but does not override the fruit. The mouth is big, sweet and chewy with a long finish.

Food & Wine Pairing:

The spicy complexity of this wine pairs delightfully with grilled meats and hearty game. This tasty Zinfandel is also a great wine to enjoy with a variety of cheeses from subtle to stinky.

Catacula Lake Winery
4105 Chiles Pope Valley Road
St. Helena, California

This Month's **Epic Reds Wine Club** Selections

This is our top-shelf wine club and is limited to only 750 members. Every month our **Epic Red Wine Club** members receive two bottles of California's finest red wines. If you are not yet a member, we invite you to join the fun. Happy wine tasting.

White Crane Winery

Livermore Valley AVA, California

Situated atop Crane Ridge, overlooking the beautiful Livermore Valley wine country is where you will find the White Crane Winery, this month's featured winery for our Epic Red's Wine Club.

White Crane Winery is a wonderful boutique winery that produces a nice variety of small lot - limited production, ultra premium wines. They currently produce limited batches of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Zinfandel, Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Vintage Portuguese Port and Estate Chardonnay Port. Case lots vary from 90 cases to 500 cases of each wine produced and they always sell out quickly.

The only place that White Crane wines are available for purchase is from their tasting room or through their own wine club. These wines are simply not available in stores. Through an exclusive arrangement with White Crane Winery, our Epic Reds Wine Club members will become part of a very exclusive group and receive two of their fabulous, award winning wines to enjoy this month.

They invite you to enjoy strolling through the gardens, sipping some of their award winning wines while you gaze out at the oak studded hills, Mt. Diablo and the Livermore Valley. Their rustic Tasting Room is only open on the weekends or by special appointment.

This month's wine selections are both ultra-premium Cabernet Sauvignons, made from grapes grown in two distinctly separate areas of White Crane Winery's Folkendt Estate vineyards. The East and West ridges of the estate vineyards have different soil and drainage conditions, each producing fruit with characteristics unique from one another. You will truly enjoy the subtle differences of these two fine Cabernet Sauvignons.

2002 East Ridge Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

Only 275 cases produced

The White Crane estate vineyard in Livermore Valley is the fruit source for the 2002 East Ridge Cabernet Sauvignon. This gently rolling 5 acre hillside located on the east ridge of the estate has historically produced fruit with immense depth and flavor. This wine was aged in French, American and Hungarian oak barrels for 17 months before bottling and displays intense, ripe fruit, with a hint of oak, chocolate and ripe strawberry flavors. It has excellent balance and finesse, with nice chewy tannins and a rich, long finish.

Drinkable now, but will age well over the next 10-15 years. Serving temperature 63°.

- Double Gold Medal Winner - 2005 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition (Ultra Premium class)
- Gold Medal - 2004 Indiana International Wine Competition

2002 West Ridge Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

Only 270 cases produced

This is a fabulous estate grown ultra premium wine. This wine was aged in French, American and Hungarian oak barrels for 19 months and has wonderful dark berry flavors with a hint of pepper and toasty oak, deep rich color, chewy flavors, and nice supple tannins. This impressive Cabernet Sauvignon pairs beautifully with grilled meat dishes such as lamb or full-bodied fish like a salmon filet.

Drinkable now, but will age well over the next 10-15 years. Serving temperature 63°.

- Silver Medal - 2005 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition (Ultra Premium class)
- Bronze Medal - 2004 Indiana International Wine Competition

White Crane Winery

5405 Greenville Road Livermore CA