## **HOT OFF THE PRESS**

## IRON HORSE NAMED AMERICAN ICON

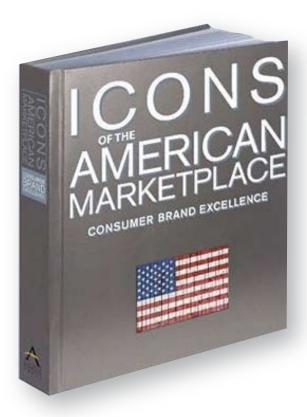




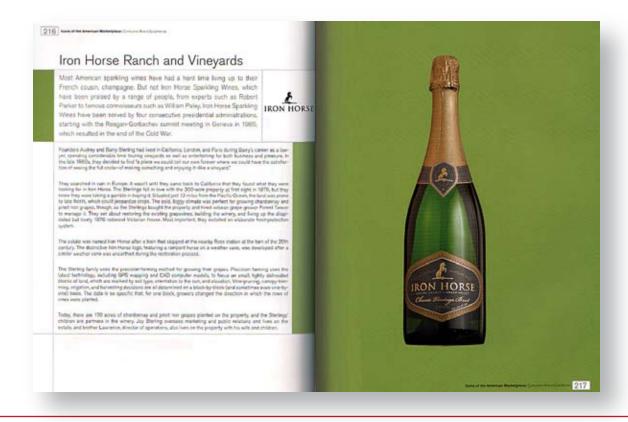




THE 200 PRODUCTS AND LOGOS FEATURED IN THIS LAVISHLY ILLUSTRATED, STORY-FILLED REFERENCE BOOK ARE A PART OF AMERICANA. IRON HORSE IS ONE OF ONLY TWO WINERIES IN THE BOOK. LISTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER, IT TAKES ITS PLACE BETWEEN IPOD AND JACK DANIEL'S, CONFIRMING IRON HORSE'S REPUTATION AS A BRAND POWERED BY PRIDE, PASSION AND QUALITY. THIS JUST PUBLISHED HISTORY OF AMERICAN BRAND ICONS IS COMPILED BY RANDOM HOUSE UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF AN ACCOMPLISHED, INDEPENDENT ADVISORY BOARD OF MARKETING EXPERTS.



SEE THE OFFICIAL WEB SITE FOR THIS BOOK AT WWW.AMERICANBENCHMARKPRESS.COM AND FOR IRON HORSE, THE WINES AND THE FAMILY AT WWW.IRONHORSEVINEYARDS.COM



## Iron Horse Ranch and Vineyards

Most American sparkling wines have had a hard time living up to their French cousin, champagne. But not Iron Horse Sparkling Wines, which have been praised by a range of people, from experts such as Robert Parker to famous connoisseurs such as William Paley, Iron Horse Sparkling Wines have been served by four consecutive presidential administrations, starting with the Reagan-Gorbachev summit meeting in Geneva in 1985, which resulted in the end of the Cold War.



Founders Audrey and Barry Sterling had lived in California, London, and Paris during Barry's career as a lawyer, spending considerable time touring vineyards as well as entertaining for both business and pleasure. In the late 1960s, they decided to find 'a place we could call our own forever where we could have the satisfaction of seeing the full circle-of making something and enjoying it-like a vineyard."

They searched in vain in Europe. It wasn't until they came back to California that they found what they were looking for in Iron Horse. The Sterlings fell in love with the 300-acre property at first sight in 1976, but they knew they were taking a gamble in buying it. Situated just 13 miles from the Pacific Ocean, the land was prone to late frosts, which could jeopardize crops. The cold, foggy climate was perfect for growing chardonnay and pinot nair grapes, though, so the Sterlings bought the property and hired veteran grape grower Forest Tancer. to manage it. They set about restoring the existing grapevines, building the winery, and fixing up the dilapidated but lovely 1876 redwood Victorian house. Most important, they installed an elaborate frost-protection

The estate was named fron Horse after a train that stopped at the nearby Ross station at the turn of the 20th century. The distinctive Iron Horse logo, featuring a rampant horse on a weather vane, was developed after a similar weather vane was unearthed during the restoration process.

The Sterling family uses the precision-farming method for growing their grapes. Precision farming uses the latest technology, including GPS mapping and CAD computer models, to focus on small, tightiy delineated blocks of land, which are marked by soil type, orientation to the sun, and elevation. Vine-pruning, canopy-trimming, irrigation, and harvesting decisions are all determined on a block-by-block (and sometimes even vine-byvine) basis. The data is so specific that, for one block, growers changed the direction in which the rows of vines were planted.

Today, there are 170 acres of chardonnay and pinot noir grapes planted on the property, and the Sterlings' children are partners in the winery. Joy Sterling oversees marketing and public relations and lives on the estate, and brother Lawrence, director of operations, also lives on the property with his wife and children.



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