



Iron Horse Vineyards
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Brief History

A pioneer in the Green Valley appellation within the Russian River area of Sonoma County, the Iron Horse family is building a legacy of prestige sparkling wines and estate-bottled Chardonnay and Pinot Noir within a “holistic” environment of natural balance, cultivation and love of the land.

Iron Horse is best known for its Sparkling Wines, which have been served at the White House since 1985, beginning with the historic U.S.-Russian Summit Meetings ending the Cold War. Other historic occasions include the White House Millennium celebrations New Year’s Eve 1999 ushering in the new century and the White House dinner honoring the Pope. The family is extremely proud that the Obama White House served Iron Horse at the State Dinner honoring the Queen of England at the Ambassador’s Residence, Winfield House, in London, May 25, 2011.

Last fall, Iron Horse launched a new, vintage Sparkling, 2005 Ocean Reserve, in partnership with National Geographic. The winery is contributing \$4 bottle to help establish marine protected area and reduce over fishing. The new vintage, 2006, was launched at the National Geographic Explorers Gala in Washington D.C. on June 23, 2011.

Their Chardonnay is considered a signature wine for the cool, foggy Green Valley region. Pinot Noir is the winery’s rising star wine.

Iron Horse has been named an American icon in a reference book published by Random House called “Icons of the American Market Place”. Listed in alphabetical order, Iron Horse takes its place between iPod and Jack Daniel’s, validating Iron Horse’s reputation as a brand backed by pride, passion and quality.

The property was named after a railroad stop, which crossed the property in the 1890s. Rodney Strong rediscovered it as a vineyard site and the original 55 acres of Chardonnay and 55 acres of Pinot Noir were planted in 1970. After searching for seven years in Europe for a winery, Audrey & Barry Sterling happened upon Iron Horse in 1976, finding precisely what they had sought for so long.

The Sterlings completely re-habilitated the vineyard, built the reservoir and installed the frost protection system, crucial to a vineyard so close to the Pacific and prone to frost as late as June 1st. The original Victorian on the property, built in 1876, was restored and became the Sterlings’ home.

The logo, the rampant horse on a weather vane, came from a 19th century weathervane found while clearing away the rubble during construction. The first vintage of Estate Chardonnay was produced in 1978. 1979

marked the first vintage of Estate Pinot Noir and the official opening of the winery. The first Sparkling Wines were vintage 1980.

For more information on Iron Horse, the family, complete tasting notes and technical information, please visit www.ironhorsevineyards.com