



The World of Wine

Chateau St. Jean

FOUNDED IN 1973, THE CHATEAU St. Jean winemaking estate is situated at the foot of Sugarloaf Ridge in the Sonoma Valley near Kenwood, California, one hour north of the Golden Gate Bridge. It has long been touted as a leader in vineyard designated wines, and was designed from the ground up to accommodate numerous lots of grapes and keep them separate throughout the winemaking process. Wines from each special vineyard are bottled and marked separately, with the vineyard name on the label. Chateau St. Jean offers vineyard designated Chardonnays from the acclaimed Robert Young, Belle Terre, and Durell Vineyards as well as a Pinot Noir from Durell Vineyard and Fumé Blanc from the La Petite Étoile Vineyard and Lyon Vineyard.

Winemaker Margo Van Staaveren is just the fourth winemaker in the winery's history. With the art of blending as the cornerstone to her winemaking philosophy, she celebrated her 29th harvest at Chateau St. Jean in fall 2008 and was named "Winemaker of the Year" by *Wine Enthusiast* magazine. Margo has been instrumental in the production of Cinq Cépages – the flagship wine of Chateau St. Jean – since the premier 1990 vintage release.

In 1999, Chateau St. Jean was the first Sonoma winery to be awarded the prestigious "Wine of the Year" award from *Wine Spectator* for its 1996 Cinq Cépages Cabernet Sauvignon. The winery also received the "#2 Wine of the Year" from *Wine Spectator* for its 1999 Cinq Cépages Cabernet Sauvignon.

Chateau St. Jean welcomes visitors to its stunning property, Visitor Center, and enchanting gardens. The wine-tasting and retail room is housed in an elegant garden structure surrounded on three sides by terraces and outdoor garden spaces. Each garden room offers an intimate area for wine tasting, picnics, and strolls. A statue of the winery's namesake Jean stands in the main courtyard garden by the decorative fountain.

In addition to tastings of award-winning wines (many of which are only available at the tasting room), Chateau St. Jean offers a variety of local Sonoma products in the Charcuterie for picnics on the grounds, as well as several hour-long wine education classes perfect for the day visitor. The Visitor Center is open daily from 10 AM to 5 PM. Future visitors can obtain more information at www.chateaustjean.com. ●



The Tasting Room (top right); Margo Van Staaveren (right); a bottle of Chateau St. Jean Cabernet Sauvignon (center)