



*Girard*

NAPA VALLEY



## “Girard Winery: A Sense of Place in the Napa Valley”

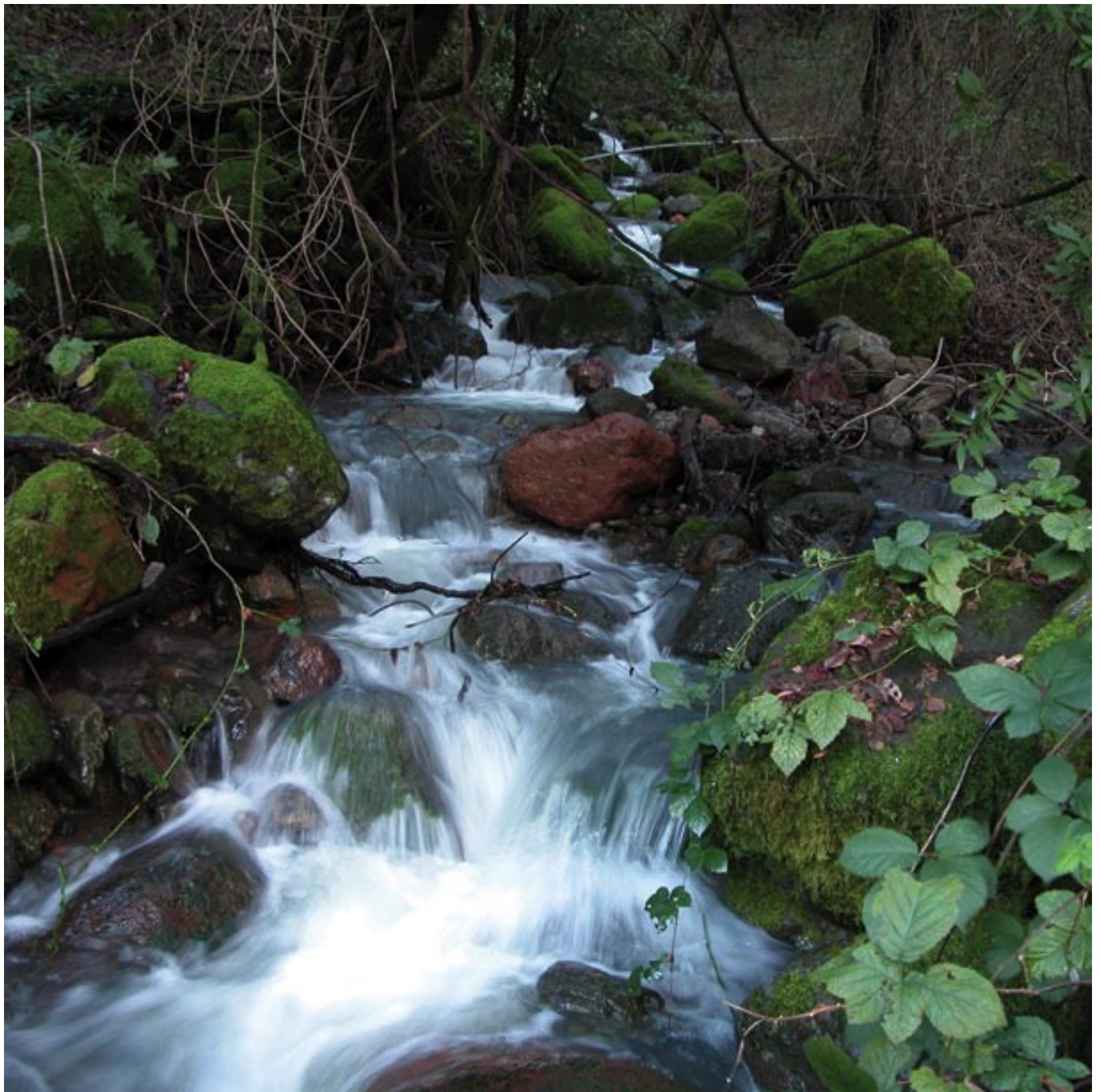
The narrow, serpentine drive up Sage Canyon leads to one of Napa Valley’s most prized and pristine vineyard districts – Pritchard Hill. Here, nestled into the hillside with panoramic views of the valley below, Girard Winery continues a tradition begun over 30 years ago, when Girard was one of the pioneers of viticulture in California.

### **The Winery**

The oak-shrouded winery on Pritchard Hill is dedicated to small lot winemaking at its best. And while it does boast some of the best views of any winery in the Napa Valley, the real excitement lies inside.

Dug into the hillside’s rock face in 1990, the winery caves are located directly behind the grape crush pad, providing perfect conditions for newly fermenting wines and aging in barrels. Upstairs, the entire winery has been newly renovated to include storage space for barrels as well as a new visitor center and tasting room. What was once a bare bones operation is now nestled in a rustic but nonetheless state-of-the-art venue – one that meets the technical needs of winemaker Marco DiGiulio as well as those of visitors to the property.

Girard farms 40 acres of vines, 18 of which surround the newly renovated winery on Pritchard Hill. Wine lovers who visit the mountain property will experience the Napa Valley from a unique perspective while enjoying rustic elegance inside the tasting room and mountainside cellar.





# The Vineyards

For the last five years, vintner Pat Roney has made it his mission to acquire acreage and establish long-term contracts for small, exceptional vineyard parcels in order to create a stylistically diverse, high quality portfolio under the Girard banner. In the mountains, red grapes such as Cabernet Sauvignon and Zinfandel are best adapted to the terrain. At lower altitudes, richer soils are more suitable to white grapes such as Sauvignon Blanc, although some red grapes, like Merlot, seem to thrive in these heavier soils as well. (The same phenomenon can be seen in France's Pomerol region, where the renowned Pétrus makes what is perhaps the world's most famous Merlot-based wine from vines planted in extremely dense, clay-like soil.)

Although there are no hard and fast rules about what works best in any given vineyard, one thing is certain: There is no substitute for trial and error, which over time has traditionally been the best guide for all the world's top wine estates. That is why Girard has dedicated much of its past efforts to identifying which varietals produce the finest wine from each of its properties. With the exception of Chardonnay (grown in Sonoma's Russian River Valley), all of Girard's grapes are grown in the Napa Valley.



## The Estate Vineyard on Pritchard Hill

In Napa Valley, Cabernet is king. It's no wonder that Girard has planted 18 acres to the region's classic varietal here in the epicenter of its winemaking operations. The vines hug the slopes, following the natural contours of the land. Blessed with clonal material originally sourced from Bordeaux, the estate vines produce small clusters of loosely set, small berries that harbor great concentration of flavor.





## Blue Ridge Vineyard

There is a hidden Napa, invisible to most wine travelers, called Blue Ridge Vineyard. It stretches out at 2,700 feet in elevation, higher than any other vineyard in the region. You've got to know the back roads to get there, because there are no real maps or clear signposts. You'll find 9 acres of gnarly, old Zinfandel vines clinging to a mountain promontory with views of the Sierras to the east and San Francisco to the south. It's a marvelous spot, where the only sound is the rushing wind.

Warm days and cold nights fill the grapes with flavor and sweetness, while preserving natural acidity. Red, rocky soils provide the classic terrain of the finest growing sites of the Napa Valley. There isn't a hint of flat surface up at Blue Ridge Vineyard, but the vines are well anchored with roots sunk deep into this most unusual outpost of western viticulture.

## Carpy Field

Much closer to civilization sits Carpy Field, named after Napa Valley wine pioneer Charles Carpy, who was born in Bordeaux and arrived in California in 1865 at the age of 16. Through hard work and good fortune, Carpy was able to purchase the impressive Greystone Winery (now the west coast campus of the Culinary Institute of America) in 1894. Today, Carpy Field remains part of the original Greystone property, a short mile north of St. Helena. By virtue of a long-term lease, Girard has farmed its 22 acres since 1999.

Carpy Field's soils are alluvial in nature, extending right up to the banks of the Napa River. Merlot and Sauvignon Blanc have long been the favored varietals for this benchmark vineyard, which has been in production since the early days of Napa Valley's winemaking history more than a century ago.







## Davies Vineyard

In the 19th century, California winemakers embraced a grape variety called Petite Sirah. Developed in France, the grape was a cross between Syrah and the little-known varietal, Peloursin. Oddly enough, the French never embraced the grape, but California winemakers discovered that it could produce highly extracted, deep, dark, rich wines. Even better, Californians noticed that older Petite Sirah vines produced the most intensely flavored wines of all. And so, while many varietals were pulled out in their senescence, Petite Sirah was allowed to reach the ripe old age of 100 or more.

The tiny, 12-acre Davies Vineyard in Calistoga was originally planted in 1869, but abandoned in the 1920s – a victim of Prohibition. Ray and Barbara Davies decided to revive the surviving old vines in 1989 and have since returned the vineyard to its former glory. Here, at the northernmost end of the Napa Valley, Petite Sirah has taken on an almost mystical significance. Locals sometimes refer to it—and not Cabernet—as the king of grapes. Girard harvests tiny quantities from these ancient vines to produce an intensely focused, richly textured wine of distinction.

## Dutton Ranch

Cool, foggy weather from the nearby Pacific shore distinguishes Sonoma County's Russian River Valley from the warmer, sunnier climate of Napa Valley, only about 20 miles away, as the crow flies. The Russian River Valley, site of Dutton Ranch, is best suited to "cool climate" grapes, such as those found in Burgundy. Among white grapes, Chardonnay is the most renowned from the region.

The Dutton family has been growing grapes since 1964. As one of Sonoma's premier wine growing families, they have established a reputation for excellence that is consistently reflected in the bottle. Girard works closely with the Duttons to select a blend of different Chardonnay clones from various portions of the property in an effort to create a complex, yet eminently drinkable style of wine.





Girard makes single-vineyard wines from the Napa Valley and wines that blend selected lots from selected sources in the Napa Valley and Sonoma County's Russian River Valley. Combining the best of Old and New World techniques, each Girard wine expresses the character of its vineyard origins. With the right grapes from the right locations, Girard offers a lineup that features both power and finesse – the hallmarks of great California wine.

### **Cabernet Sauvignon – Single-Vineyard, Estate-Bottled**

Made from 100 percent Cabernet Sauvignon grown exclusively on our rocky, hillside soils, the estate wine derives its character from the distinctive microclimate found on Pritchard Hill. Altitude definitely affects wine style. Our estate-grown Cabernet grapes are harvested and fermented in separate lots, according to their location on the mountainside. Only the finest lots become our Estate Cabernet Sauvignon.

### **Napa Valley Red**

Girard's signature red wine blend is made from Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot and Malbec—all classic Bordeaux varietals. The grapes come primarily from Oakville District hillside and valley floor vines, where Cabernet and its related varietals reign supreme.

### **Cabernet Franc – Napa Valley**

Cabernet Franc is rarely used as a stand-alone varietal. (A notable exception is Château Cheval Blanc in Bordeaux, perhaps the world's most famous Cabernet Franc.) Indeed, when grown in an area uniquely suited to the varietal, this "other" Cabernet makes an unusually complex wine. Napa Valley's Oakville district appears to be one of these ideal locations for the grape, and it is the primary source for Girard Cabernet Franc.

# The Wines

### **Zinfandel – Napa Valley**

Made primarily from Old Vine Zinfandel, the wine displays the intensity of flavor typical of stocky, deep-rooted vines planted long ago. There are a number of reasons why the early California winemakers planted Zinfandel, but the most compelling explanation lies in the grape's unusually spicy, fruit-driven personality.

### **Petite Sirah – Napa Valley**

In the early days of California winemaking, Petite Sirah was often planted in conjunction with Zinfandel. Some of these old head-pruned vines remain in the ground today, such as those growing on Ray and Barbara Davies' property in Calistoga. Their grapes yield inky dark wines of great complexity.

### **Sauvignon Blanc – Napa Valley**

Napa Valley seems particularly well suited to Bordeaux varietals, such as Sauvignon Blanc, which is the backbone of Bordeaux whites. Girard Sauvignon Blanc is made in a fresh, clean style that highlights the best of this increasingly popular varietal.

### **Chardonnay – Russian River Valley**

This is the only Girard wine made from grapes found outside the Napa Valley. The Russian River flows down the Sonoma Coast and empties into the Pacific Ocean near the village of Jenner. Ocean breezes make this region ideal for cool-climate Chardonnay, the majority of which we select from Dutton Ranch vineyards.



Girard Winery  
 1551 Sage Canyon Road  
 St. Helena, California 94574  
 Tel: 707.968.9297  
 Fax: 707.968.9760  
 girardwinery.com



Wilson Daniels Ltd.  
 P.O. Box 440-B  
 St. Helena, California 94574  
 Tel: 707.963.9661  
 Fax: 707.963.8566  
 wilsondaniels.com



*Girard*

CABERNET SAUVIGNON  
NAPA VALLEY

ALC. 14.1% BY VOL.

*Estate Bottled*  
FROM OUR VINEYARDS ON PEITCHARD

*Girard*

NAPA VALLEY