



MacRostie Winery and Vineyards The Story So Far...

Over the past three decades, MacRostie Winery and Vineyards has established itself as one of the Sonoma Coast's defining wineries, and a leader in a bright, balanced and age-worthy style of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. Where MacRostie has led—both stylistically and geographically—others have followed. Today, MacRostie is guided jointly by Sonoma County visionary and winery founder Steve MacRostie, and talented up-and-coming winemaker Heidi Bridenhagen, who together are making the finest Chardonnays and Pinot Noirs in the winery's storied history. Using grapes farmed by legendary winegrowing families, including the Duttons, Sangiacomos, Martinellis and Bacigalupis, and from Steve's own Wildcat Mountain Vineyard, MacRostie's Sonoma Coast wines have established themselves as benchmarks, offering a rare intersection between labor-intensive small-lot winemaking, fair pricing and the complexity that can only be achieved by working with the finest vineyards.

Though MacRostie Winery and Vineyards was originally founded in 1987, the seeds for MacRostie go back to 1974—to the early days of Sonoma County winemaking, when Steve began his winemaking career at Hacienda Winery. At a time when most California winemakers were fixated on Bordeaux varieties and Napa Valley, Steve and a handful of other pioneers took a different path, embracing the fog-shrouded vineyards of Sonoma County and their untapped potential for producing some of the finest Chardonnay and Pinot Noir in the world. While at Hacienda, Steve quickly gained renown as a winemaker capable of making exceptional Burgundian-variety wines. He also began to develop his own style, favoring crispness, complexity and vineyard character, as opposed to overt opulence.

In 1987, Steve established MacRostie Winery and Vineyards. To make his earliest wines, Steve reached out to growers he knew and respected—leaders of Sonoma County winegrowing like the Sangiacomo family. Steve also worked to champion quality in the region, both in the vineyards and the winery, and MacRostie's wines were soon widely hailed for their unique balance of cool-climate structure and vibrant fruit. In 1992, years before the modern Pinot Noir boom, MacRostie added Pinot Noir to its portfolio, and quickly developed a devoted following for the pure and elegant style of these wines.

Several years later, inspired by a desire to cultivate his own great piece of land, Steve discovered an amazing mountainside ranch with spartan volcanic soils in the Petaluma Gap region on the borderlands of the Sonoma Coast. Planted to MacRostie's specifications, this windswept site has become Wildcat Mountain Vineyard, and the cornerstone of the winery's vineyard program. At the same time, in its drive to represent the entirety of the Sonoma Coast, including the lushness of the Russian River Valley and the nerve and ethereal aromatics of the extreme Sonoma Coast, MacRostie has continued to explore ever-farther west at sites like Dutton and Keefer ranches, and Goldrock Ridge and Campbell Ranch, just a few miles from the Pacific Ocean. Today, in order to capture the rich expressiveness of the entire Sonoma Coast, MacRostie works with more than 30 Chardonnay vineyards and over 15 Pinot Noir sites—a remarkable level of diversity for a small-sized winery.

Just as the quality of the winery's vineyard sources has grown evermore diverse and exceptional, in the winery, the MacRostie team has continued to refine and focus its techniques to highlight this diversity. In a given vintage, it is not uncommon for MacRostie to do as many as 130 individual fermentations of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, with a focus on extremely small 1-ton fermentation for Pinot Noir. This keeps different vineyards, blocks and clones separate. While this is an incredible amount of work, when it comes time for blending, it gives Heidi and Steve an amazing palette of flavors to work with. This diversity has also allowed MacRostie to enhance its portfolio, adding a Russian River Valley Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, as well as a handful of sought-after vineyard-designate wines from throughout the Sonoma Coast.



In both the vineyard and the winery, the MacRostie team believes in finding the balance between tradition and innovation, with the belief that you can respect history, while still continuing to evolve. As a winemaker, Heidi is passionate about the value of experimentation, and is constantly running small winemaking trials as she hones her approach and further refines the quality and character of MacRostie's wines. As a winery, MacRostie has continued to lead, most recently with its trailblazing decision to become the first Sonoma Coast winery of its stature to bottle all of its wines under screw cap. As with every important decision at MacRostie, the switch to screw caps was made to enhance quality, and to preserve the freshness, purity and nuance that define its wines.

Like the finest Chardonnays and Pinot Noirs, great wineries evolve over time. In recent years, Steve has stepped back from the business side of the winery to focus on the things he loves most—guiding MacRostie's acclaimed vineyard program, and making wine alongside talented young winemaker Heidi Bridenhagen. This, combined with a substantial investment in all areas of MacRostie's production, from grape sourcing to winemaking, is resulting in a golden age for MacRostie.

In 2014, MacRostie broke ground on a new state-of-the-art Pinot-focused winery and tasting facility on Westside Road in the Russian River Valley. Surrounded by an idyllic 13-acre estate Pinot Noir vineyard, and designed by renowned architect Doug Thornley, both aesthetically and experientially, this stunning facility will be unlike anything else on Westside Road. "I have always wanted a home for MacRostie that expresses who we are as a winery, and what we believe in, as clearly as our wines do," says Steve. "Our new home in the Russian River Valley is really a culmination of everything we have learned and come to stand for over our first quarter century, and a statement about who we plan to be over the next 25 years."