

MILESTONES IN SILVERADO HISTORY:

1976 – 81-acre Miller Ranch purchased in Yountville.

1978 – Miller family purchases the 93-acre Silverado Vineyard, one of the first three planted to Cabernet in Stags Leap.

1980 – Jack Stuart is named winemaker.

1981 – Construction of Silverado Vineyards winery begins. First crush is 135 tons.

1983 – Silverado's inaugural 1981 vintage wines are released in January, including 1,200 cases of Chardonnay and 600 cases of Sauvignon Blanc. Wines are featured in select accounts in San Francisco, New York, Los Angeles and Longboat Key, Florida.

1984 – 3,700 cases of 1981 Cabernet Sauvignon—Silverado's first Cabernet—are released.

1986 – 300 cases of 1983 Merlot are released.

1987 – All four of Silverado's entries win gold medals at the International Wine and Spirit Competition (IWSC) in London; Jack Stuart is named IWSC Winemaker of the Year. Silverado Vineyards is named American Winery of the Year in the Grand National Wine Competition.

1988 – Millers purchase 29-acre Firetree Vineyard in Carneros, Napa Valley. The family also purchases historic land on Mt. George, just east of Napa.

1988 – Dan Berger of the Los Angeles Times writes that Jack Stuart “has quietly established Silverado as one of the most prestigious in the Napa Valley.”

1989 – Millers plant 110 acres on the hillsides of Napa Valley's Mt. George (Mt. George Vineyard), 121 years after the original 1868 planting.

1990 – Release of 1986 Cabernet Sauvignon Limited Reserve.

1990 – Jonathan Emmerich joins Silverado Vineyards as enologist; is soon promoted to assistant winemaker.

1992 – Millers purchase 17 acres near the Soda Creek Canyon store, site of the historic winery erected in 1888 by Felix Borreo, winemaker and Napa grocer. Sixteen acres of vineyards are planted among the remaining blocks of the original olive orchard.

1993 – The 1990 vintage of the Cabernet Sauvignon Limited Reserve is named the No. 3 wine on the Wine Spectator's top 100 List. Rated 97 points, it is also the No. 1 Cabernet of the year in the annual Cabernet issue.

Mid-1990s - The Silverado field selection becomes one of only three designated Heritage by UC Davis (Cabernet Sauvignon #30, Silverado Heritage).

1998 – Jonathan Emmerich is named winemaker.

2000 – Millers purchase abandoned apple orchard and plant 30 acres of Chardonnay in the Carneros region, named Vineburg Vineyard.

2004 – Founding Winemaker and General Manager Jack Stuart retires. The Miller family selects Russ Weis as new General Manager.

2005 – Jon Emmerich introduces small stainless-steel barrels to its Chardonnay winemaking program with the 2005 vintage.

2005 – Working with Fish Friendly Farming, Silverado begins restoring creek beds and Napa river banks to native California flora on the Miller Ranch and the Stags Leap vineyards.

2006 – Silverado celebrates its 25th birthday by debuting a new label designed by Annabelle Miller, the oldest granddaughter of Ron and Diane Miller.

2006 – SOLO is introduced. Steven Heimoff from Wine Enthusiast describes it as “a perfect expression of Stags Leap” (issue: March 1, 2006).

2006 - Napa Valley Sauvignon Blanc is replaced with vineyard-designate Sauvignon Blanc from Miller Ranch in Yountville.

2007 – Silverado embarks on initiative to reduce winery's energy use, installing 225 kw solar power and transitioning vineyard vehicles to hybrid engines technology.

2008 – Releases its 25th vintage of Cabernet Sauvignon.

2008 – With purchase of first 6 ton fermenters, Silverado embarks on a micro-block vinification project for Cabernet Sauvignon.

