

According to Diane Miller, “It was beautiful land, and it was land that was working.” The Millers sold their grapes to some of the finest vintners in the valley. Year after year, the wines



Diane and Ron Miller have guided their family winery for 28 years.

produced from these grapes won awards and accolades. Encouraged by this success, the Millers began the conceptual planning for Silverado Vineyards Winery in 1980.

At this key juncture, three decisions were made that would come to define the winery. First, gifted winemaker Jack Stuart was hired to help design and establish the winery.

THE SILVERADO STYLE

Second, a prominent knoll adjacent to Silverado Vineyard was selected as the winery site. Finally, the name Silverado Vineyards was chosen for the winery, honoring the historical name of the vineyard and expressing the estate-grown wine philosophy of Ron and Diane Miller.

Silverado Vineyards’ first vintage was in 1981. In the ensuing time, Silverado has earned a reputation for excellence and consistency, thanks to the caliber of its vineyards. Over time, the Miller family assembled a rich and diverse mosaic of six family-owned vineyards, each selected for its ability to contribute nuance and character to the wines. Silverado also became known for handcrafting estate wines that combine classic structure with understated elegance.



Jonathan Emmerich, UC Davis graduate in Fermentation Science, worked with Jack Stuart for eight years before taking the reins in 1998 as Silverado Vineyards’ winemaker.

INNOVATION AND GROWTH

The Silverado team has always searched for a deep vein of quality by implementing state-of-the-art viticultural techniques and creative winemaking methods. From its early use of extended maceration (a common technique today) to its recent focus on newly-designed small, stainless steel barrels in its Chardonnay program, the Silverado winemaking team has helped to champion techniques that enhance the power and purity of great fruit.

THE FUTURE OF SILVERADO

In 2005, Silverado Vineyards pioneering winemaker Jack Stuart stepped down as general manager, and Russ Weis took the reins. Russ, who was most recently a senior vice president with Robert Mondavi Corporation, brings more than twenty years of industry experience to Silverado. He is extremely passionate about the winery: “We



Russ Weis, General Manager (and fourth generation grape grower) is highlighting Silverado’s best assets – its vineyards.

enjoy an amazing array of meticulously cared for estate fruit. Even in the most challenging years, our vineyards guarantee us a level of quality which we can be proud to call Silverado.”

W i n e m a k e r Jonathan Emmerich, with more than eighteen years at Silverado, continues the winery’s legacy of vineyard expression. Emmerich is constantly refining his methods for

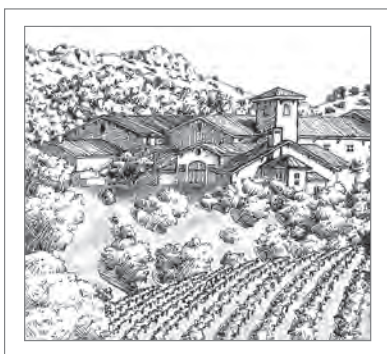
extracting the pure essence of the vineyards. His approach focuses on small lots and gentle handling of the fruit to produce wines that possess both lush sophistication and age-worthiness.

According to Jonathan, “We’ve had the same philosophy all along. Every day, we wake up and ask, ‘What can we do to make the wines better?’ Naturally, it starts in the vineyards. This is a great wine growing property. Each one of the vineyards has its own distinctive flavors and character. We work to make better use of the land, to farm it better, to help each block express exactly what and where it is. I believe that’s how to make wine. When you have confidence in the vineyards, you don’t need to manipulate the wines.”

As a result of Silverado’s confidence and pride in each vineyard they farm, they now offer a vineyard-designate Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc, with Merlot soon to follow. But nowhere is this vineyard-inspired style more on display than in the rich, powerful Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignons that make up the heart of the Silverado portfolio, especially the SOLO Cabernet Sauvignon, which Steve Heimoff from Wine Enthusiast and Robert Parker from The Wine Advocate have both heralded as a perfect expression of Stags Leap.

Emmerich continues to mine Silverado’s estate fruit to create wines with elegant, “fragrance and soft fire.” Emmerich states it simply, “Wine has to be delicious. It is meant to be a pleasure.”

Ron and Diane recently commissioned their granddaughter Annabelle Miller to create a new label. The design is a pen drawing of the winery from the perspective of Annabelle’s great grandmother’s home overlooking the vineyards. Reflecting the down-to-earth artisan spirit that defines the people and wines of Silverado, this new label also represents the winery’s balance between tradition and the future.



Annabelle Miller, Lillian and Walt Disney’s great granddaughter, drew this pen and ink of Silverado Vineyards, which is on their new labels.



SILVERADO’S SIX ESTATE VINEYARDS

Silverado Vineyards farms six distinctive, family-owned vineyards in the Napa Valley and Carneros, three of which are historic sites in regional viticulture. Focusing almost exclusively on fruit from these proprietor-owned vineyards, Silverado crafts its line of 12 bottlings including: three classic Cabernet Sauvignons, two Chardonnays, a Sauvignon Blanc, a Merlot and a Sangiovese, as well as (for the Wine Club and Tasting Room only) Rosato, Zinfandel, Super-Tuscan Fantasia and Late Harvest Semillon.

STAGS LEAP

Location: 1 mile south of Yountville Cross Road along the Silverado Trail

Appellation: Stags Leap District, Napa Valley

Varieties: Cabernet Sauvignon (72 acres), Merlot (20 acres)

MILLER RANCH

Location: West of the Napa River and just south of St. Joan of Arc Church in Yountville

Appellation: Yountville, Napa Valley

Varieties: Chardonnay (39 acres), Sauvignon Blanc (40 acres), Semillon (2 acres)

MT. GEORGE

Location: On the hillsides of Mt. George, east of the town of Napa on Hagen Road

Appellation: Napa Valley

Varieties: Cabernet Sauvignon (56 acres), Merlot (34 acres), Petit Verdot (4.5 acres), Cabernet Franc (3.5 acres), Sangiovese (1.5 acres)

FIRETREE

Location: Buhman Road in Carneros

Appellation: Carneros, Napa Valley

Varieties: Chardonnay (29 acres)

VINEBURG

Location: Sonoma side of Carneros

Appellation: Carneros

Varieties: Chardonnay (30 acres)

SODA CREEK

Location: 3–4 miles south of Silverado Vineyards, 5 miles east on Soda Canyon Road

Appellation: Napa Valley

Varieties: Sangiovese (10.7 acres), Zinfandel (2 acres), Sauvignon Blanc (2 acres)

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), precisely 100 years after original 1889 planting.
- 1990** – Release of 1986 Cabernet Sauvignon Limited Reserve.
- 1990** – Jonathan Emmerich joins Silverado Vineyards as lab technician; 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.
- 2005** – 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** – Celebrates 25 years of innovation and quality winemaking in Napa Valley.
- 2006** – Debuts new label designed by Annabelle Miller, the oldest granddaughter of Ron and Diane Miller.
- 2006** – Launches SOLO, which Steven Heimoff from Wine Enthusiast describes as “a perfect expression of Stags Leap” (issue: March 1, 2006); replaces Napa Valley Sauvignon Blanc with vineyard-designate Sauvignon Blanc from Miller Ranch in Yountville.
- 2007** – Embarks on initiative to convert winery to solar power; Silverado also begins transition to vineyard vehicles with hybrid engines technology. Solar panels are also installed to reduce the need for outside energy by 30 percent.
- 2008** – Releases its 25th vintage of Cabernet Sauvignon—the 2005—in the fall.
- 2008** – Implements a series of initiatives to conserve water in the vineyards.

