

So...
you think
you know
Sonoma?



1



2

Taste along:

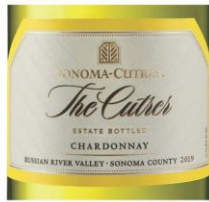
Russian River Valley Chardonnay



1

Here are my tasting notes for
Sonoma Cutrer Vineyards Russian River Valley
"The Cutrer Vineyard" Chardonnay, 2019

- 100% Chardonnay
- 14.1% abv
- Hand harvested (night), whole-cluster pressed
- Barrel-fermented, 100% mlf
- Aged 5 months (French oak, mostly new) + 8 mo. (used)
- Aromas:
 - Fruit: White peach, nectarine
 - Other: Caramel, brown sugar, pie crust, hazelnut
- On the palate:
 - Creamy, round, smooth, buttery



2



Sample Question: What is the leading white grape of Sonoma County?

- a. Sauvignon Blanc
- b. Riesling
- c. Chenin Blanc
- d. Chardonnay

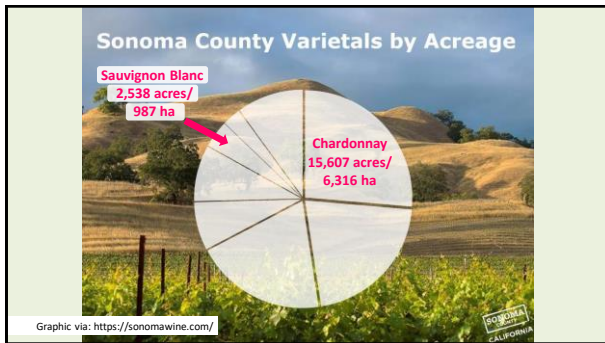
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4



5



1. In the 1860s, Agoston Haraszthy (known as *The Count*) established _____.

- a. Bennett Valley Cellars
- b. Balletto Vineyards
- c. Buena Vista Winery
- d. Beaulieu Vineyard

6



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7




8



2. Cloverdale Peak is part of which of the following mountain ranges?

- a. Mayacamas
- b. Cascades
- c. Santa Ana
- d. Sierra Nevada


9



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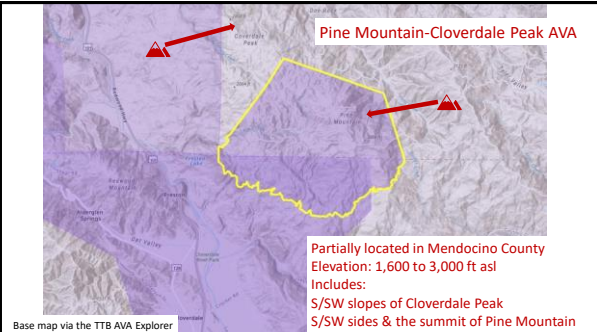
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Mayacamas Mountains

Map Via:
<https://www.summitpost.org/mayacamas-mountains/706718>

11



Pine Mountain-Cloverdale Peak AVA

Partially located in Mendocino County
Elevation: 1,600 to 3,000 ft asl
Includes:
S/SW slopes of Cloverdale Peak
S/SW sides & the summit of Pine Mountain

Base map via the TTB AVA Explorer

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3. Of the following, what is the largest appellation in Sonoma County?

- a. Sonoma Valley AVA
- b. Sonoma Coast AVA
- c. Alexander Valley AVA
- d. Dry Creek Valley AVA

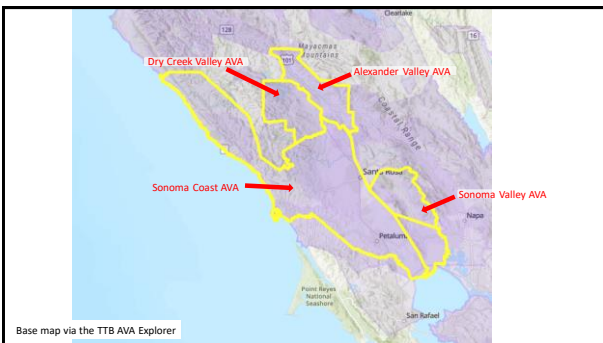
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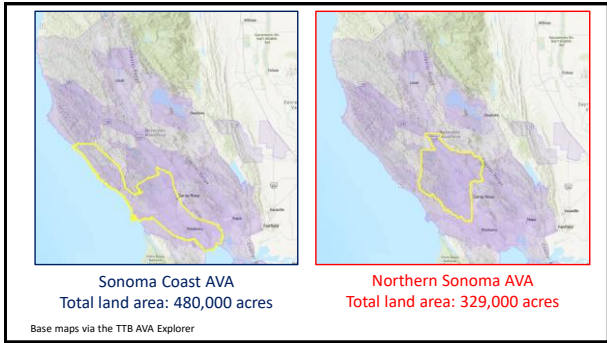
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14



15




16



4. Which of the following towns is NOT located in Sonoma County?

- a. Yountville
- b. Freestone
- c. Healdsburg
- d. Santa Rosa

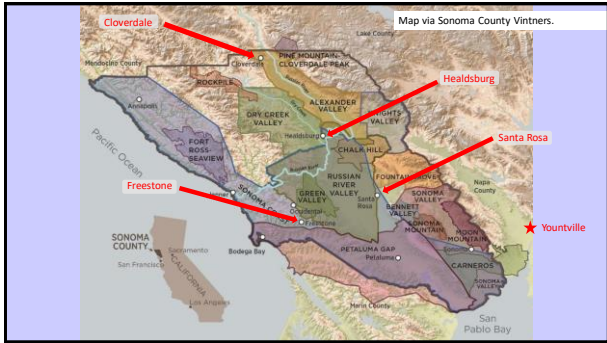
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18




19



5. Kistler Vineyards produces 11 different versions of clone- and vineyard-specific _____.

- a. Pinot Noir
- b. Sparkling Wine
- c. Chardonnay
- d. Zinfandel

20




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21


Kistler is a single clone chardonnay house...



The heritage of California chardonnay is a complex blend of many different varieties. From California to France, Italy, and the Rhone River Valley, and beyond, each clone has its own unique characteristics and growing conditions. Chardonnay is a versatile grape that can be grown in a wide range of climates and soil types. It is a single clone chardonnay house that has been established in the wine world.

We're here and growing in the heart of the wine world, the heart of the wine world.


22



6. What are the two leading red grapes of Sonoma County?

- a. Merlot & Cabernet Sauvignon
- b. Cabernet Sauvignon & Pinot Noir
- c. Pinot Noir & Merlot
- d. Cabernet Franc & Gamay

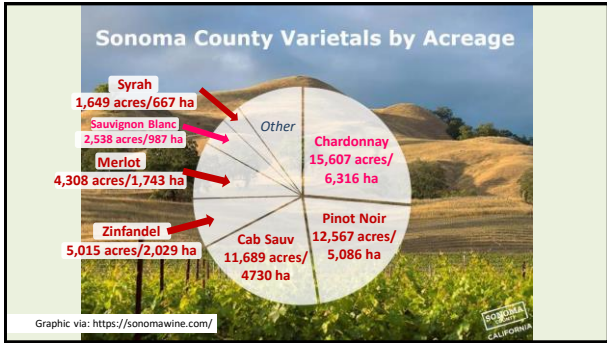
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- c. Pinot Noir & Merlot
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Taste along:

Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir

26


Here are my tasting notes for Merry Edwards Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir 2019

- 100% Pinot Noir
- 14.2% abv
- Sourced from several vineyard sites
- Cold soak, open-top fermentation, extended maceration
- (Estimated) 10 months aging in French Oak
- Aromas:
 - Fruit: Cherry, cranberry, plum, raspberry, strawberry
 - Other: Floral (wildflowers), earthy (forest floor), nutmeg
- On the palate:
 - Medium-plus body, smooth tannins, balanced acidity, well-integrated notes of fruit and spice, lingering (warm) finish

MERRY EDWARDS

SONOMA COAST
PINOT NOIR
SONOMA COUNTY
ALCOHOL 14.2% BY VOLUME


27



6. Who (or what) is the namesake of Knights Valley?

- a. The Knights Templar
- b. The Knights who say Ni
- c. Newton Knight
- d. Thomas B. Knight


28



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Knights Valley AVA

Established 1983
 Warmest climate in Sonoma
 On the county's eastern edge

Spans 37,000 acres
 2,500 acres planted to vines
 Quite rural—vines and cattle!

Leading grapes:
 Cabernet Sauvignon, followed by
 Merlot, Malbec,
 Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay

30



8. The Carneros AVA—shared between Napa and Sonoma—has a total of 10,040 planted acres. How many of these are in Sonoma?

- a. 6,800
- b. 3,400
- c. 9,050
- d. 1,800

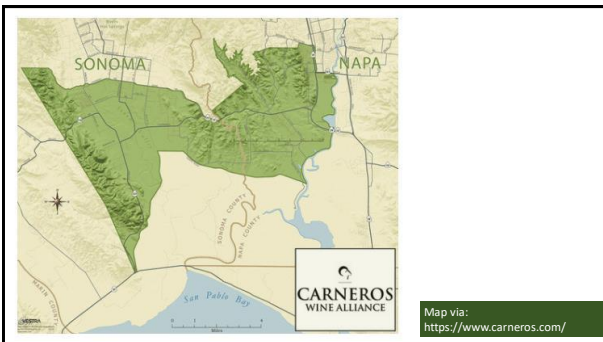
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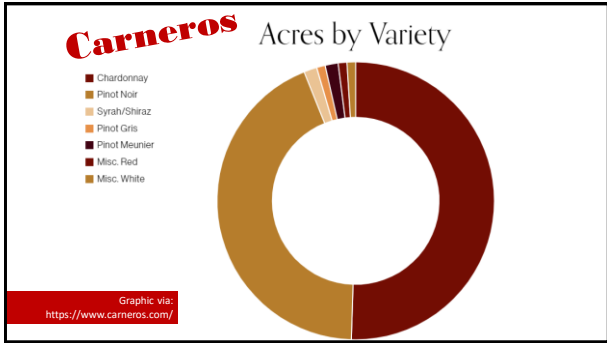
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32



33



34

9. Silver Oak Cellars is especially well-known for which of the following wines?

- a. Russian River Valley Pinot Noir
- b. Sonoma Valley Chardonnay
- c. Alexander Valley Cabernet Sauvignon
- d. Dry Creek Valley Fumé Blanc

35

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36



37



38



10. The Russian River flows from _____ to the Pacific Ocean (near Jenner).

- a. Middletown (Lake County)
- b. Oakville (Napa County)
- c. Ferndale (Humboldt County)
- d. Willits (Mendocino County)

39



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40



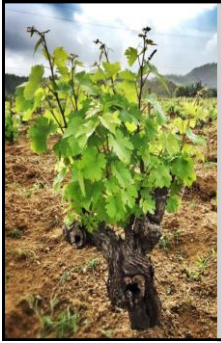
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11. Which of the following—bonded in 1934—is one of the oldest wineries in the Dry Creek Valley AVA?

- a. Kinsella Estates
- b. Pedroncelli
- c. Dry Creek Vineyard
- d. Quivira Vineyards

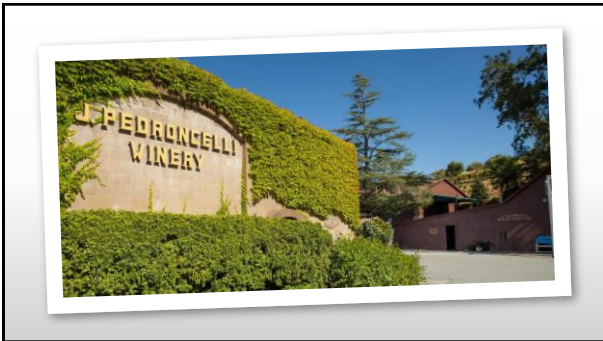
42



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- a. Kinsella Estates
- b. Pedroncelli**
- c. Dry Creek Vineyard
- d. Quivira Vineyards

43



44

Taste along:
Dry Creek Valley Zinfandel



45

Here are my tasting notes for
Ridge Vineyards Dry Creek Valley
"East Bench" Zinfandel, 2019

- 100% Zinfandel
- 14.8% abv
- Organic grapes, hand-harvested, de-stemmed
- Native yeast ferment
- 12 months in American oak barrels (new & used)
- Aromas:
 - Fruit: Blackberry, cherry, red plum, strawberry, orange peel
 - Other: Floral, cigar, black pepper
- On the palate:
 - Medium-plus body, medium tannins, concentrated, luscious fruit flavor, long finish with a hint of mint

RIDGE 2019
EAST BENCH
ZINFANDEL

DRY CREEK VALLEY 100% ZINFANDEL
SONOMA COUNTY 14.8% ALC/VOL (29.6°) BY RIDGE
VINEYARDS. GROWN, PRODUCED & BOTTLED BY RIDGE VINEYARDS
1500 ETTEN SPRING ROAD, HEALDSBURG, CALIF. 94948

46



12. What historic Sonoma winery was founded by Andrea Sbarboro in 1881?

- a. Sebastiani
- b. Italian Swiss Colony
- c. Fountain Grove
- d. Muscardini Cellars

47



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48



49




50



13. Which of the following AVAs is named for a California State Historic Park?

- a. Fort Ross-Seaview
- b. Green Valley
- c. Moon Mountain
- d. Rockpile

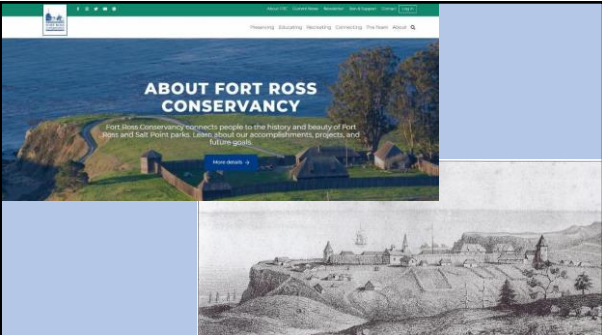
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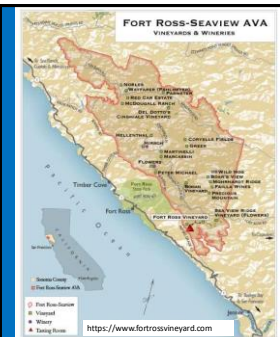
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- d. Rockpile

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53



Fort Ross-Seaview AVA
VINEYARDS & WINERIES

Established 2012
Nested within the Sonoma Coast AVA
Just 20 miles/32 km inland


600 acres planted to vines

Cool/maritime climate
Min. elevation 800 /245 m
Above the fog line

Leading grapes:
Chardonnay, Pinot Noir

<https://www.fortrossvineyard.com>


54



14. In the Sonoma Mountain AVA, the vineyards are planted as high as 1,700 feet (520 m) asl. However, the actual *Sonoma Mountain* is _____ feet high.

- a. 4,023 feet (1,226 m)
- b. 1,935 feet (590 m)
- c. 5,226 (1,593 m)
- d. 2,463 ft (751 m)

55



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56

Sonoma Mountain

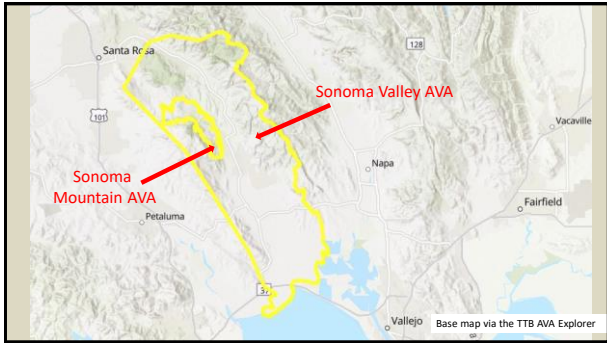
Highest peak in the 14 mile- (23 km)-long Sonoma Mountain Range

Home to Jack London State Historic Park


Sonoma Mountain AVA occupies parts of the eastern slope (up to 1,700 feet/520 m in elevation)



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58



15. Which of the following wineries is NOT located in Sonoma County?

- a. Jordan Winery
- b. Chateau St. Jean
- c. Diamond Creek
- d. Rodney Strong

59



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- d. Rodney Strong

60

Chateau St. Jean

Founded in 1973 by Ken Sheffield & Bob and Ed Merzoian (San Joaquin Valley grape growers)

Purchased the 250-acre Goff family estate in Kenwood

Flagship wine: Cinq Cépages



61

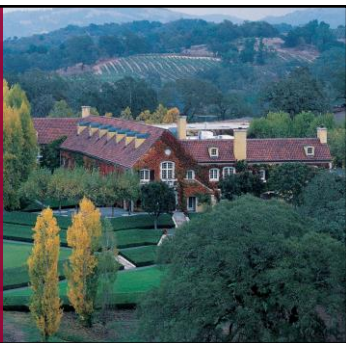
Jordan Vineyard and Winery

Founded in 1972
Winery located in Healdsburg
Still owned by the Jordan family

1,200 acres surround the winery
(3/4 of which is still wild)

Focus on:
Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon

Check out their blog:
The Journey of Jordan



62

Rodney Strong Vineyards

Founded in 1959
Winery located in Healdsburg

Among the first to plant:
Chardonnay in Chalk Hill (1965)
Pinot Noir in Russian River Valley (1968)
Cabernet Sauvignon in Alexander Valley (1974)



63

*How did
you do?*