

WESTERN RESERVE WINES CLUB OCTOBER 2023

WINE: Mount Peak Rattlesnake Zinfandel 2020



VARIETALS: Zinfandel Block #E.45

Viticulture Area: Sonoma County



Bottle Price: \$49.99 | 6 Pack Case Price: \$269.94 plus tax

INTRODUCTION

The Mount Peak story begins more than a century ago at the celebrated Monte Rosso Vineyard and culminates with the revival of Mount Peak Winery, a vestige of one of California's ghost wineries. Our wines are inspired by this great place, and we pay tribute to the extraordinary winery that once stood there by capturing its enduring spirit in our wine.

Built in 1886, Mount Peak was a marvel of innovation. The three-story, gravity-flow winery was built from the rocks pulled from the dry-farmed Monte Rosso Vineyard. It quickly emerged as one of California's top ten producers, but the start of Prohibition in 1920 forced the winery to shutter its doors. Like many of California's pioneering wineries, Mount Peak was abandoned to the elements, a true ghost winery never to reopen. For decades the winery lays silent, as wild vines and towering fig trees seek to reclaim it stone by stone.

Over 130 years later only the ruins of the winery remain, yet the vineyard's still-thriving vines have persisted—standing silent above the fog line, occupying the space between earth and sky. The ghost winery and the world-class Monte Rosso Vineyard are perched at nearly 1,300 feet along the spine of the Mayacamas Mountains, just straddling Napa and Sonoma valleys. Monte Rosso's steep hillsides, robed in bright red, iron-rich soils, are set against a dramatic backdrop of manzanita and madrone, under the expanse of piercing blue skies.



REGION



Sonoma County (/sə'noʊmə/) is located in the U.S. state of California. It is to the north of Marin County and the south of Mendocino County. It is west of Napa and Lake Counties. It is the northernmost county in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area region.

In California's Wine Country region, which also includes Napa, Mendocino, and Lake counties, Sonoma County is the largest producer. It has thirteen approved American Viticultural Areas and more than 350 wineries. More than 8.4 million tourists visit each year, spending more than \$1 billion in 2016.

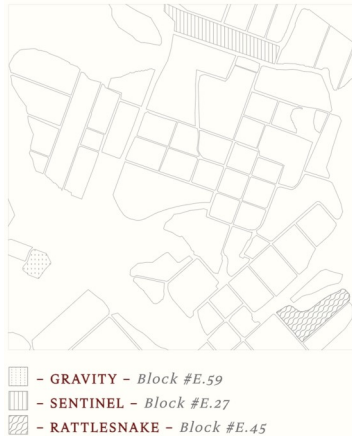
Sonoma County, as is often the case with coastal counties in California, has a great degree of climatic variation and numerous, often very different, microclimates. Key determining factors for local climate are proximity to the ocean, elevation, and the presence and elevation of hills or mountains to the east and west. This is in large part due to the fact that, as throughout California, the prevailing weather systems and wind come normally from the Pacific Ocean, blowing in from the west and southwest, so that places closer to the ocean and on the windward side of higher elevations tend to receive more rain from autumn through spring and more summer wind and fog.

Sonoma County is bounded on the west by the Pacific Ocean, and has 76 miles (122 km) of coastline. The major coastal hydrographic features are Bodega Bay, the mouth of the Russian River, and the mouth of the Gualala River, at the border with Mendocino County. All of the county's beaches were listed as among the cleanest in the state in 2010.

PRODUCER

THE INSPIRATION OF OUR PORTFOLIO

Today, Mount Peak wines display the focus and finesse that are the hallmarks of this remarkable place with three distinct wines. Sentinel™ Cabernet Sauvignon, named after the shield-shaped block that marks the entrance to the vineyard. Rattlesnake™ Zinfandel pays homage to Monte Rosso's Rattlesnake Hill, a place known for the snakes that sun themselves at the highest point in the vineyard. Gravity® Red Blend, so named for a remote, hard-to-reach block where the vines cling to a steep slope that terminates at the mouth of a canyon. Inspired by this storied vineyard, our portfolio of wines are a tribute to California's fabled winemaking history.



Tasting Notes:

A concentrated Zinfandel with mouthwatering fruit notes. Rattlesnake™ Zinfandel is a tribute to the crest called Rattlesnake Hill, the highest point of the Monte Rosso Vineyard and a site known for rattlesnakes living among the vines. During the day, the snakes seek the abundant sunshine and in the evening, they coil inside and around the vines. A rich, textured and inky-dark Zinfandel with an alluring juicy quality. Layered ripe fruits tones of plum, black cherry and blueberry tie together with black pepper, licorice and cocoa dust. The lasting finish adds spices and vanilla to frame the fruit.

Food Suggestions:

It's old fashioned, but the advice "red wine with red meat" still applies. Lamb, pork chops, duck, and bacon work well. Red Wines are also terrific with pasta dishes. Cheeses like Swiss and Jack pair well.

Remember We Taste The Bad Ones So you don't have to! CHEERS!!!

Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sonoma_County,_California

<https://www.mountpeakwinery.com/>

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94 PTS

Full-bodied, rich and spicy in the mouth, it has a plush texture and fantastic freshness...

– Robert Parker, 2016
Rattlesnake Zinfandel