



CLOS DU VAL

Stags Leap District, Napa Valley
California



Ted Henry

“Clos du Val is in the midst of repositioning itself as a premium winery. Production is down and a focus on quality is up...When it comes to the wines there is not much to say, except that they are superb.”

- Antonio Galloni, *Vinous* (March 2017)

OWNER: The Goelet Family

FOUNDED: 1972

WINEMAKER: Ted Henry

SIZE: 350 acres

HARVEST: Late September through October

VARIETIES PLANTED: Cabernet Sauvignon, Pinot Noir, Merlot
Cabernet Franc, Chardonnay

CLIMATE: **Stags Leap** - Moderately warm, with afternoon marine winds cooling the warmer air radiating off the bare rocks of the surrounding hillsides; summer temps regularly are in mid-90s°; **Yountville** - Moderate, with cool marine influence; **Carneros** - Cool, with prevailing marine winds from the San Pablo Bay

SOILS: **Stags Leap** - Volcanic, gravelly loams; **Yountville** - Volcanic as well as sedimentary with sandy, gravelly loam and clay; **Carneros** - Clay loams on fractured bedrock

WEBSITE: www.closduval.com



Clos du Val Winery in Stags Leap District, Napa Valley



PROFILE: Clos Du Val, French for “small vineyard estate of a small valley,” was founded in 1972, an era that wine writer Hugh Johnson referred to as “the turning point in modern wine history.” Two years before, the Goelet family tasked talented French-born winemaker Bernard Portet with finding vineyard land, anywhere in the world, capable of producing a world-class Cabernet Sauvignon.

Clos Du Val’s legendary debut Cabernet Sauvignon was one of only six California Cabernets selected for the famous 1976 Judgment of Paris Tasting, where California defeated some of Bordeaux’s finest wines. Ten years later, Clos Du Val’s reputation for creating some of Napa Valley’s most gracefully age-worthy wines was solidified, when its 1972 Cabernet Sauvignon took first place in the Judgment of Paris rematch.

Still family-owned today, Clos Du Val farms 350 acres of estate vineyards in the Stags Leap District, Carneros and

Yountville appellations and continues to craft wines of balance and complexity, showcasing the fruit from the outstanding terroir on which the estate lies.

VITICULTURE: For more than 40 years, Clos Du Val’s estate program has centered around the Hironnelle Vineyard that was part of the original land purchase in 1972 (where the winery is located) and has evolved to include the 180-acre Gran Val Vineyard in Carneros, and the 18-acre State Lane Vineyard in Yountville. With a viticulture program guided by master Cabernet Sauvignon grower Jon-Mark Chappellet, these vineyards include more than 30 different blocks of Cabernet, with a variety of soil types and exposures, dozens of unique clone and rootstock combinations, and an array of vine ages. Clos Du Val’s specific, quality-driven viticultural practices include harvesting later to achieve optimal ripeness, reducing crop yields, increasing dappled sunlight in the vine canopy, and enhancing soil fertility.



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THE WINES



Clos Du Val focuses on making estate-grown wines, with an emphasis on the exceptional Stags Leap District Cabernet Sauvignons that first catapulted Clos Du Val to fame. From the coveted Cabernet of the Hironnelle Estate Vineyard to the prized Pinot Noir and Chardonnay vines of the Gran Val Vineyard in Carneros, Clos Du Val's wines are made using grapes from some of the most cherished winegrowing land in Napa Valley.

Estate Chardonnay: Made exclusively using grapes from Clos Du Val's Gran Val estate vineyard in Carneros that they've farmed for more than 40 years. This is a vivid and alluring Chardonnay, with layered aromas of toast, Asian pear, and green apple. On the palate, bright, mouthwatering acidity adds poise and precision to flavors of apple pie and lemon curd, underscored by oak-inspired hints of caramel and baking spice.

Estate Pinot Noir: Brilliant deep ruby in color, this is a wine of great focus. Aromas of strawberry, tart cherry and exotic spices bound from the glass. Bold flavors of rhubarb and black cherry round out the palate along with hints of fresh cream and bright cherry jam. A rich and expansive mouthfeel finishes with silky, lingering tannins.

Estate Cabernet Sauvignon: A benchmark Napa Cabernet with an inky purple hue that delivers aromas of coffee, blueberry, and toast. The palate is rich and complex brimming with flavors of plum, boysenberry, and cocoa. The texture is lush, silky and full with well-structured tannins that are approachable now and will cellar gracefully for decades.

Hironnelle Estate Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon: The crown jewel of Clos Du Val's estate program is the Hironnelle Vineyard in the heart of Stags Leap District. Enticing aromas of clove, blueberry pie and just a hint of menthol lead way to complex red fruit flavors with bright acidity. The wine showcases toasted oak and fine tannins with a long, lingering finish.

Three Graces: Daughters of Zeus and part of the nine muses, the Three Graces, represent elegance, vibrancy, and cheer; the very things Clos Du Val believes wine imparts on life. Both the Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc were grown in the finest blocks of the vintage from Hironnelle Estate vineyard. The wine exudes a strong briary aroma with mint chocolate and cedar notes. With a complex flavor profile including blueberry, blackberry and cream notes, the tannins are persistent on the palate without overpowering it.

WINEMAKING: The pursuit of excellence in winemaking for Clos Du Val has meant employing precise, impactful practices. Adding cold soaks to the Cabernet program to increase color and aromatics, fermenting lots individually, instituting earlier pumpovers to create greater tannin integration, utilizing new filtration methods to limit oxidation, and revamping the barrel program to focus on only the best coopers—all together preserve vineyard character, while adding nuance and silky textural elements to the wines. "As a winery, our original roots were more in an Old World style," says Winemaker, Ted Henry. "Now we are more fully embracing the 'Napa Valley-ness' of our wines. We are showing the natural strengths of our vineyards. While our wines are richer and more textural than in the past, they still have lovely acid and relatively modest alcohol levels. They are wines of purity and balance."



Hironnelle Vineyard, Stags Leap District



State Lane Vineyard, Yountville



Gran Val Vineyard, Carneros