VENGE VINEYARDS & WINERY



FALL 2026

Hello to all our very gracious Guild Members!

I turned 50 this year. I'm still getting used to saying that out loud. A birthday like this has a way of making you look back. I think about the people who taught me this work, the vineyards I've come to know, and the many harvests that didn't go quite according to plan. I wouldn't trade those days. They taught me to pay attention and to appreciate how much can happen between the first day of picking and the moment we finally share a bottle. I'm grateful each day for the opportunity to set foot out into a vineyard or smell the cold air of the barrel cellar. The lofting sound of a barrel rolling or the beat of a forklift reacting to pedal pressure is my welcome cadence of life.

We're nearing the end of what was the earliest harvest on record right now. The mornings start early. Decisions come quickly. And even after all these years, I still feel that familiar excitement when fruit arrives at the winery. Every harvest demands a little something different from us. Oh, the thrill of chasing a berry around the days of the calendar and around the sun! While we tend to this year's fruit, I'm quite pleased to share three wines from the 2024 vintage: Our Bone Ash Estate Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon, the legendary Stagecoach Vineyard Syrah and Lee Hudson's infamous Merlot. Each comes from a vineyard site that means a great deal to me, and each will bring something different to your table.

Our **2024 vintage** is positioned as one of the standout historical vintages on record. It will likely stand among the great wines we've produced over the decades. It is full and powerful, showing beautiful fruit character supported by a firm tannin structure — the kind of backbone that promises extended aging for those who enjoy cellaring their wines. Following the exceptionally cool, long growing season of 2023, 2024 took a sharp turn into a much warmer, compressed timeline. Heavy winter rains initially saturated the soil and created dense leaf canopies, which ultimately saved the vintage from a series of severe summer heatwaves starting in July. While it was a warm vintage similar to 2018 or 2022, the careful management of the canopies kept the fruit protected, avoiding overripe or "jammy" characteristics. This release, I'm especially proud to share three wines that capture the heart and soul of our craft.

2024 Stagecoach Vineyard "Block I-4" Syrah

Stagecoach Vineyard. The endless pile of volcanic rock on a hilltop. It is a landscape at altitude that destroys tractors and their implements with its sharp and toothy fractured red rocks, in every square inch. It's amazing…. Absolutely glorious, this megalith!
I never tire of the expression of Stagecoach. A mosaic of vineyard blocks, row directions and avenues, our Block I-4 gives us the opportunity to really drill down and focus on one small steep plot of this amazing 600-acre terroir. Syrah is a winemaker's grape and truly one of my most anticipated wines every year.

2024 Bone Ash Vineyard Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

Bone Ash is where we call home. These vines are truly my babies. I know the rows like I remember my bike paths through Rutherford as a child. I walk in these rows, watch the seasons change and see the work behind every bottle first-hand. We tend to this "old friend" with the utmost care and respect with organic compost and biodiverse cover crops and would never dare use pesticides or herbicides. I longingly point out how this vineyard thrives to guests of the estate at every opportunity available.

2024 Hudson Vineyard Merlot

Hudson is one of those vineyards that has "a lot of runway" in the season. It's typically the last vineyard in the door. Coming from the coldest microclimate of Napa Valley, Los Carneros, the Hudson Vineyard sees the most extremes year-round that seamlessly translates to a very opulent, tactile and flesh filled Merlot. It sings! 2024 experienced a warm September that this vineyard really enjoyed to further along ripeness in a rather difficult environment to ripen Bordeaux reds.

I can't wait for you to experience these wines and make your own memories around them. Thank you, as always, for giving me the chance to share these wines with you. Each release is a reflection of not just the vineyard, but of the community we've built together. I look forward to hearing which bottle you open first, and the stories you create around it.



Kirk P. Venge, Proprietor & Winemaker

2024 STAGECOACH VINEYARD "BLOCK I-4" SYRAH | Napa Valley

WINEMAKER'S RECORD

Varieties: 100% Syrah | **Method**: Hand-Picked, *Pellenc* Destemmed Via Gravity Into Open Top French Barriques,100% Native Primary & Secondary Fermentation | **Ageing**: 21 Months, 100% New, Three-Year, Air-Dried French Oak
Production: 250 Cases Produced

Our 2024 vintage is an intense, vibrant wine with aromas of plum, black currant, graphite, black peppercorn, juniper, cinnamon bark, and lilac. The entry is silky and round, with flavors of licorice, fresh leather, ripe cherry, and cacao. The finely textured tannins provide lift and length, and run through to the long finish. This wine has a wonderful tension of sweet and savory notes, and plenty of evolution in the glass. It is drinking well now, and will age effortlessly through the mid- to long- term. Open now for luscious vibrancy or lay down for 8 years for softer tannins.

This rugged terrain first made history when gentleman bandit Charles Earl Bowles, known as Black Bart, robbed the daily stagecoach that travelled over the hill from St. Helena to Monticello. The hills were planted to vine by early German settlers in the late 1800's and abandoned at the onset of Prohibition. The ground lay fallow until 1995 when Dr. Jan Krupp purchased the 1,100+ acres that stretched from the southern edge of Pritchard Hill overlooking Oakville to the westernmost regions of the Atlas Peak Appellation. Dr. Krupp recently sold the Stagecoach Vineyard to the Gallo family, where superior growing practices continue. Today, nearly 600 acres are planted to various varieties, with Syrah planted in the highest elevations. Our long-term contract for Syrah is on the I-4 Block, that sits on the highest peak of the vineyard. It is perhaps - if not *the* most - ideal area for growing mountain Syrah.

$68 | Member Pricing | MAG: $57.80 | SAL: $54.50 | BALTH: $51

2024 BONE ASH VINEYARD CABERNET SAUVIGNON | Calistoga Estate, Napa Valley

WINEMAKER'S RECORD

Varieties: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon | **Method**: Hand-Picked, *Pellenc* Destemmed Via Gravity Into Stainless Steel Tanks and Concrete Diamond Vats,100% Native Primary & Secondary Fermentation | **Ageing**: 21 Months, 100% New, Three-Year, Air-Dried French Oak | **Production**: 450 Cases Produced

Calistoga's earliest settlers arrived in the 1840's, where various field varieties of vineyards were planted to traditional head-trained systems. Indeed, the Frediani Vineyard next door to us still possesses vines that are 80 to 110 years old, a testament to the fortitude and the traditions espoused by those early pioneers. Calistoga is today its own AVA, bearing distinction for its climate, its aspect, and its soils. The soils are what drove the naming of our Calistoga Estate the "Bone Ash Vineyard." As the season wears on and the soil dries out, light plumes of volcanic ash will dust up, looking like the ashes of the bones of those early settlers.

Our Calistoga Estate Bone Ash Vineyard is broken into three, distinct sections. Young Vine, Old Vine, and Terraces. It is always from the old vine section of grapes picked where the Bone Ash Vineyard designation is produced. This section is picked nearly three weeks later than both the young vine and terraces sections. That additional hang time makes all the difference in grape composition and quality of fruit. The 2024 vintage of our estate Cabernet is exceptional! A concentrated, purple hue sheets the glass and leads the way on the nose to an aromatic bouquet of blue herbs, blackberries, fruit preserves, cassis and a lift of vanillin. Sexy and complex, the palate is refined, yet stout, with sweet cassis, currants, cranberry, black cherries, with an acid and tannin balance that is developed and promising. With proper cellaring, this wine will drink pleasurably through 2039.

$125 | Member Pricing | MAG: $106.25 | SAL: $100 | BALTH: $93.75

2024 HUDSON VINEYARD MERLOT | Los Carneros, Napa Valley

WINEMAKER'S RECORD

Varieties: 100% Merlot | **Method**: Hand-Picked, *Pellenc* Destemmed Via Gravity Into Stainless Steel Tanks With Time On Skins At 16 Days,100% Inoculated Primary & Secondary Fermentation | **Ageing**: 21 Months, 100% New, Three-Year, Air-Dried French Oak | **Production**: 350 Cases Produced

Our 2024 Merlot is stunning! Complex and expansive, this wine has a dark blue-purple hue and a corresponding aroma profile of baked blueberries, fresh-cut thyme, subtle baking spices, and crushed stones. Intense flavors of black cherry, blueberry, and black currants are interwoven with notes of gravel and savory dried mushrooms. The tannins are refined and lingering, balanced by lifting acidity.

Lee Hudson came to California in 1975. The black sheep scion of a Texas oil family, he'd been introduced to Maynard Amerine, the UC Davis wine scholar, who took Hudson to Napa Valley. Hudson surveyed the hilltop vista at Sterling Vineyards and the sweeping view at Robert Mondavi Winery, and was struck silent. Almost 40 years later, Hudson, has become one of Northern California's preeminent grape growers. Merlot is just one of 14 other varieties among his 160 acres of grapes. Hudson went on to study winemaking at UC Davis, where he was part of a class that included notable vintners John Kongsgaard, Randall Grahm and Tim Mondavi. He left an impression on his classmates, a young man who had become obsessed with the glory of Burgundy, enough so that he left his studies to seek out his own vineyard land. In 1981, having already scouted in Oregon, Hudson discovered a 2,000-acre ranch in eastern Carneros and scooped it up for $600 an acre. The parcel was mostly scrubby upland rising from Carneros Creek, but a few stretches were suited to wine grapes. At the time, Carneros was barely known as a wine region, but Hudson deduced the potential of his neighborhood. The Winery Lake vineyard next door was renowned for Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Not far away, Stanly Ranch had survived Prohibition and then been adopted by Louis Martini and Beaulieu Vineyard. Hudson harvested his first grape crop in1983.

$75 | Member Pricing | MAG: $63.75 | SAL: $60 | BALTH: $56.25



Thank you for being a part of our extended family, for sharing our passion, and for supporting our legacy in the Napa Valley!

(707) 942-9100
kenneth@vengevineyards.com
jessica@vengevineyards.com

Stay tuned for our 2027 schedule of amazing Wine Club events and a new release of our 18-year barrel-aged Tawney Port!