

IRON HORSE VINEYARDS - A BRIEF HISTORY



Iron Horse Vineyards
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A pioneer in the Green Valley appellation within the Russian River area of Sonoma County, the Iron Horse family is building a legacy of prestige sparkling wines and luxury estate-bottled wines within a “holistic” environment of natural balance, cultivation and love of the land.

Iron Horse is best known for its Sparkling Wines, which have been served at the White House since 1985, beginning with the historic U.S.–Russian Summit Meetings ending the Cold War and most impressively at the White House Millennium celebrations ushering in the new century. Most recently, the White House served Iron Horse vintage Wedding Cuvee as the State Dinner honoring newlyweds Prince Charles and Camilla.

Pinot Noir is the winery’s rising star wine. The Chardonnay is considered a signature wine for the cool, foggy Green Valley region.

Iron Horse was named after a railroad stop, which crossed the property at the turn of the century. Rodney Strong rediscovered it as a vineyard site and the original 55 acres of Chardonnay and 55 acres of Pinot Noir were planted in 1970. After searching for seven years in Europe for a winery, Audrey & Barry Sterling happened upon Iron Horse in 1976, finding precisely what they had sought for so long.

The Sterlings completely re-habilitated the vineyard, built the reservoir and installed the frost protection system, crucial to a vineyard so close to the Pacific and prone to frost as late as June 1st. The original Victorian on the property, built in 1876, was restored and became the Sterlings’ home.

The Iron Horse name came from a train that cut across the property in the 1890s. The logo, the rampant horse on a weather vane, came from a 19th century weathervane found while clearing away the rubble during construction. The first vintage of Estate Chardonnay was produced in 1978. 1979 marked the first vintage of Estate Pinot Noir. The first Sparkling Wines were vintage 1980.

For more information on Iron Horse, the family, complete tasting notes and technical information, please visit our website: www.ironhorsevineyards.com