



Suisun Valley

Grape Growers Association

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FACT SHEET

ASSOCIATION INFORMATION

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CALIFORNIA'S 11TH AVA

ESTABLISHED: DECEMBER 27, 1982
Web: www.svgga.com
Tel: (707) 620-0788 for info on SVGGA

OFFICERS | DIRECTORS (2004)

President – Roger King
Vice President – Ken Lanza
Secretary – Maurry Koch

Treasurer – Gary Mangles
Director – Steven Tenbrink
Director – Dan Capp

Director – Chris Estes
Director – Rick Wehman

HISTORY

Established on December 27, 1982, Suisun Valley is California's 11th AVA

GEOGRAPHY

Suisun Valley is 15,360 acres, with 3,000 acres currently planted to wine grapes. Suisun Valley lies within the southern end of two ranges of the Coast Range: the Vaca Mountains to the east and the Mt. George Range to the west. Suisun Valley terminates in the south at the marshlands of Suisun Bay. To the north, Suisun Valley rolls up into Wooden Valley at the Napa County line.

Length	Approximately eight miles
Width	Approximately three miles at its widest point
Orientation	North to south, split mid-valley to two geographical fingers
Drainage	Suisun Creek and Ledgewood Creek drain into Suisun Bay

CLIMATE

Suisun Valley's terroir is characterized by cool, moist winds blowing inland, from the Pacific Ocean and San Francisco's San Pablo Bay, continuously from May through early fall. Spring frosts are made less severe by its proximity to the Suisun Bay.

CLIMATE TYPE

Climate is Mid-region III, as classified by the University of California Davis system of heat summarization by 0° degree days.

ACCUMULATION

Averages roughly	3,350 degree days per year
Mid valley average	3,250 to 3,450 degree days per year
Upper valley average	3,700 to 3,750 degree days per year

SOILS

Suisun Valley consists of a mixture of soils zoned within the valley floor, and additional none-typed soils within the undeveloped hillsides. Soil types include the following:

Brentwood clay loam	Sycamore silty loam
San Ysidro sandy loam	Rincon clay loam

WATER

Suisun Valley is primarily provided with agricultural water via Putah South Canal, which draws from Lake Berryessa, and is operated by the Solano Irrigation District.



Principal Contact List

Suisun Valley Wine Grape Growers Association Board of Directors

Roger King - President
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Member Contact List

Grower Members	Contact	Phone
Paul & Bonnie Herman	Catherine & Richard Zimmerman Frank Vezer Joe Bosco & Janice Smith 707-863-8830	707-864-8427
A & J Custom Farming	Willis & Reba Johnson	707-863-0165
A.J. Vineyards	Fred Abruzzini	707-429-2519
Andrews Vineyards	Jay Adair	707-422-9575
Babcock Vineyard	Frank & Dorothy Andrews	707-425-3560
Babcock Vineyards, Inc.	Brian Babcock	707-864-1818
Balestra & Balestra	Howard Babcock	707-864-1222
Bella Vista Ranch	Larry & Lisa Balestra	707-864-0719
Biggs Family Trust	Carty Brothers	707-425-3075
Bourland Vineyards	Biggs Family	707-864-0269
C & J Ranch	Tom & Minny Bourland	707-426-5020
Clayton Vineyards – Ellis Clayton Vineyards	Curt and Jeanette Lindemann	707-435-9367
Delehanty Properties	Ester Engel Rowland	707-422-7436
Estes Vineyards	James Delehanty	650-697-7100
Gianno Vineyard	Chris & Tracie Estes	707-974-3718
Greystone Creek	Mary & Leonard Gianno	707-425-9076
Greystone Vineyards	Maurice & Gloria Koch	707-863-9779
Lanny Capp Vineyard	Dwight & Elaine Woodard	707-425-6210
Lanza Vineyards Inc.	Lanny & Sandra Capp	707-425-3932
Ledgewood Creek Winery	Ken Lanza Ron Lanza Rick Wehman	707-864-0730 707-426-4424
Ledgewood Vineyards	Roger King	707-425-9076
Loney Ranch	Ron & Kim Loney	707-422-3972
M & L Ranch, Lindemann Enterprises	Frank and Sarah Lindemann	707-864-8427
M. German & Son Fruit Co.	Michael German	707-425-3150
Mangels Ranch	John Mangels & Gary Mangels Mario Rosso	707-864-1591 707-864-2299
Mankas Hills Vineyards	Richard & Chris Meade	707-438-7863
Meades Ranch	Ross Niffenegger	707-864-0226
Niffenegger Vineyard	Gary & Rosa Phillips	707-422-0457
Phillips Vineyard	Katherine Frances Scarlett	707-425-2732
Scarlett's Family Vineyard	Teresa & John Wignall	707-963-2590
Solano Foothill Vineyard, LLC	Steven Tenbrink	707-429-5129
Tenbrink Ranch	Christine and A. R. Tooby	707-422-2141
Tooby Vineyard	Dan & Marguerite Capp	707-425-4179
Twin Creek Vineyards Brocap Vineyards	Robert Hansen	707-421-2359
Upper Valley Vineyards - Hansen Farms	Pete Vernasca	707-963-7774
Vernasca Vineyards	Paul & Bonnie Herman	707-863-8830
Wine & Walker Ranch	Lillian Wirth	707-864-0545
Wirth Ranch	Bradley and Renee Wolfskill	707-422-7363
Wolfskill Ranches		



Associate Member Contact List

Member	Contact	Phone
Alf Burtleson Construction	Andrea M. Bosco	
California Association Of Wine Growers	Alf Burtleson	707-963-2916
Country Estates Inc	Karen Rose	
D & B Ranch	Gloria M. Koch	
Diaz Communications	Dennis & Sandi, of D & B	
Family Winemakers of California	Jose & Jo Diaz	707-620-0788
Green Valley Tractor	Paul Kronenberg	916-498-7100
Jim Lewis Viticultural Services	Ron & Kim Loney	707-422-3972
P.S. I Love You	Jim Lewis	707-257-3061
Turrentine Wine Brokerage	Jo Diaz	707-620-0788
Vineyard Specialists	Bill Turrentine	415-454-4546
Wooden Valley Winery	Gail Gant	916-961-6166
	Ron Lanza	707-864-0730

Blue Color = Established Winery in Suisun Valley



Suisun Valley ~ Planted Varietal List



BARBERA

MERLOT

PINOT NOIR

SEMILLON

CABERNET FRANC

MOUVEDRE

PRIMITIVO

SHIRAZ

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

MUSCAT CANELLI

RIESLING

SYRAH

CHARDONNAY

PETITE SIRAH

ROUSANNE

VIOGNIER

GAMAY

PETITE VERDOT

SANGIOVESE

WHITE REISLING

GRENACHE

PINOT GRIS

SAUVIGNON BLANC

ZINFANDEL





Suisun Valley ~ History

Varietal grape growing for premium winemaking in California's Suisun Valley has roots dating back into the 1800's, and represents over a century of continuous viticultural activity.



In the 1800's, vineyards were more prominently located in the southern end of both Suisun Valley and neighboring Green Valley. They were typified by classic head pruned vines in field-blend plantings. In the latter 1800's, Mangles Winery (long decommissioned and now gone) sat just to the west of Suisun Valley Road near Cordelia. It represented one of the largest commercial wineries in the United States in its day, and produced wines from fruit grown in and around this location.

While phylloxera (and later Prohibition) did much to disrupt the local grape industry in the early 1900's, a strong rebound for grapes and wine commenced in the post WWII economic expansion. Wine industry cycles over the years have continued to increase viticultural acreage, change varietal plantings, and influence a continuous pursuit of quality gains.

In 1982, growers of the Western Solano County Grape Growers Association successfully petitioned the BATF, and received formal designation of Suisun Valley as an identified AVA. The 15,000 acre Suisun Valley AVA was subsequently included in the 1983 formation of the North Coast AVA, combining Napa, Sonoma, and Mendocino counties, together with Suisun Valley and Green Valley (with elements of Lake and Marin Counties) into one overarching ultra premium growing region, now recognized world-wide.

Benefiting from a Mediterranean climate, properly fertile soils, and significant marine air influences during summer months, Suisun Valley growers have incorporated new trellising systems with changes in varietal and clone selections to continue quality enhancement in wine grape production.

Today, approximately 3,000 acres are under vine in the Suisun Valley and that fruit continues to be sourced by numerous Napa and Sonoma wineries for inclusion in multiple product lines.



SVGGA ~ Overview

The formation of Suisun Valley Grape Growers Association (SVGGA) is considered to create a more cohesive and sustainable competitive market position for wine grape growers within the Suisun Valley AVA; thereby, improving and bettering the conditions of respective grower members of the Association. This will be accomplished through a number of proposed specific goals and objectives as outlined below:

Goals and Objectives

To sustain wine grape production at commercially profitable levels for all growers with the Suisun Valley AVA:

1. To improve price per ton averages on annualized basis to maintain grower revenue in line with increased operating costs
2. To increase annual tonnage shipments from Suisun Valley to premium North Coast wineries
3. To develop meaningful awareness within commercial markets of the North Coast (AVA) orientation of Suisun Valley and position such awareness as high quality/high value
4. To foster access to premium grapes to serious home wine markets, for those growers seeking such buyers
5. To foster further winery development within the Suisun Valley AVA producing Suisun Valley appellation wines

Association Objectives

1. Return Grape contract pricing to equal or exceed recommended pricing set by North Coast wine grape producers
2. Establish, within 2 years, viable sales promotion channels exclusive to SVGGA members that are recognized by both commercial and home winegrape buyers
3. Pursue contracting terms with major premium commercial buyers that establish Suisun Valley AVA in appellation wines and single vineyard wines
4. Work to narrow pricing gaps to Napa Valley average grape pricing per ton
5. Support development of additional Suisun Valley wineries within next two years

Strategies to Accomplish Goals and Objectives

1. Strong promotion of positive aspects for the Suisun Valley terroir, defining key nuances of marine influence, soils types, clonal selections and viticultural practices
2. Create and implement a viable sales channel to both commercial and home winegrape buyers through use of internet technology and conventional communications.
3. Establish programs and services to assist growers to constantly improve quality levels of wine grape varietals produced.
4. Collective negotiation of major grape contracts if and when appropriate.
5. Implementation of a price/value index on SVGGA grapes
6. Strong solicitation and incentives to wineries to produce single vineyard or AVA appellation wines.



Suisun Valley grapes have continuously produced appellation wines which have gained acknowledgement from across the country. Listed below are recently achieved awards.

Award List ~ Ledgewood Creek

2003 PicNique Rouge Red Table Wine ~ Suisun Valley
Gold, 2005 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition

2002 Ledgewood Creek Chardonnay, North Coast ~ Suisun Valley
Silver, 2005 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition
Silver, 2004 Los Angeles County Fair
Silver, 2004 San Diego International Wine Competition
Bronze, 2004 Riverside International Wine Competition
Bronze, 2004 West Coast Wine Competition

2002 Ledgewood Creek Merlot, North Coast ~ Suisun Valley
GOLD, 2004 Los Angeles County Fair
GOLD, 2004 Riverside International Wine Competition
CHAIRMAN'S AWARD, 2004 Riverside International Wine Competition
Silver, 2005 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition
Bronze, 2004 Orange County Fair

2001 Ledgewood Creek Merlot, North Coast ~ Suisun Valley
Silver, 2003 West Coast Wine Competition
Silver, 2003 San Diego National Wine Competition
Silver, 2003 Riverside International Wine Competition
Bronze, 2003 Los Angeles County Fair
Bronze, 2003 San Francisco International Wine Competition

Award List ~ Mankas Hills Vineyards

2002 Contado Mankas Cabernet Sauvignon ~ Suisun Valley
Silver, 2003 California State Fair (89 points)
Bronze, 2005 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition
Bronze, 2003 Riverside International Wine Competition
Bronze, 2003 L.A. County Fair

Award List ~ Olabisi Wines

Olabisi 2003 Petite Sirah, King Vineyard ~ Suisun Valley
Gold, 2005 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition



Suisun Valley grapes have continuously produced appellation wines which have gained acknowledgement from across the country. Listed below are recently achieved awards.

Award List ~ Sunset Cellars

2002 Sunset Ledgewood Vineyards Zinfandel ~ Suisun Valley

Silver, 2005 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition
Silver, 2005 Florida State Fair Wine Competition
Silver, 2005 Jerry D. Meads New World International Wine Competition

2000 Sunset Ledgewood Vineyards Zinfandel ~ Suisun Valley

Silver, 2003 Sonoma-Marin Fair, North of the Gate Wine Competition
Silver, 2003 Taster's Guild International Wine Judging
Bronze, 2003 Finger Lakes International Wine Competition
Bronze, 2003 Riverside International Wine Competition

2001 Sunset Ledgewood Vineyards Zinfandel ~ Suisun Valley

Gold, 2004 Finger Lakes International Wine Competition
Silver, 2004 Sonoma-Marin Fair, North of the Gate Wine Competition
Bronze, 2004 West Coast Wine Competition

2001 Cuvee Du Vin/Ledgewood Suisun Valley Syrah ~ Suisun Valley

Silver, 2004 West Coast Wine Competition

Award List ~ Wooden Valley Winery

2002 Estate Chardonnay

Bronze, 2004 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition

2001 Viognier

Silver, 2002 Alameda County Fair

2003 Riesling

Silver, 2004 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition

2002 Muscat Canelli

Gold, 2003 San Francisco Bay Wine Competition
Silver, 2003 Orange County Wine Society Competition (Orange County Fair)
Silver, 2003 California State Fair (92 points)

2000 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

Gold, 2003 California State Fair
Bronze, 2003 LA County Fair
Bronze, 2003 San Francisco Bay Wine Competition
Bronze, 2003 Orange County Wine Society Competition (Orange County Fair)
Silver, 2004 San Francisco Chronicle wine Competition

2000 Cabernet Sauvignon

Silver, 2003 San Francisco Bay Wine Competition
86 Points & Best Bang for your Buck, Affairs of the Vine Cab Shootout
Bronze, 2004 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition



Suisun Valley grapes have continuously produced appellation wines which have gained acknowledgement from across the country. Listed below are recently achieved awards.

Wooden Cellars: continued...

2000 Estate Merlot

Bronze, 2003 San Francisco Bay Wine Competition
Bronze, 2003 Orange County Wine Society Competition (Orange County Fair)
Bronze, 2003 California State Fair 86 points

2000 Merlot

Silver, 2003 LA County Fair
Bronze, 2003 California State Fair (84 points)
Bronze, 2003 San Francisco Bay Wine Competition
Bronze, 2003 San Francisco International Wine Competition

2002 Estate Pinot Noir

87 points, 2004 Affairs of the Vine Pinot Noir Shootout
Also voted in 2004 as "An Affair to Remember" by Pinot lovers

2000 Syrah

Bronze, 2003 LA County Fair

2001 Valdiguié

Gold, 2003 California State Fair (94 points)
Best Varietal in Region, 2003 California State Fair
Silver, 2003 LA County Fair