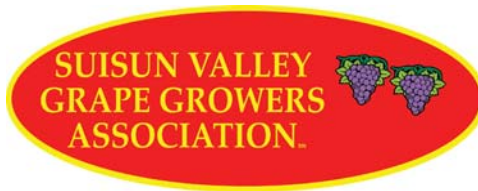


# Suisun Valley Grape Growers Association

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## FACT SHEET

### ASSOCIATION INFORMATION

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Suisun Valley, CA 95434  
E-mail: [info@svgga.com](mailto:info@svgga.com)

### CALIFORNIA'S 12<sup>TH</sup> AVA

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

### OFFICERS | DIRECTORS (2004)

President – Roger King	Treasurer – Gary Mangels	Director – Chris Estes
Vice President – Ron Lanza	Director – Steven Tenbrink	Director – Rick Wehman
Secretary – Maurry Koch	Director – Howard Babcock	Director – Jim Parr

### HISTORY

Established on December 27, 1982, Suisun Valley is California's 12<sup>th</sup> 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 Ledgeewood 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 non-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**

2546 Mankas Corner Road  
Suisun Valley, CA 94534  
(707) 425-9076  
(707) 425-8314 fax  
[lwvineyard@aol.com](mailto:lwvineyard@aol.com)

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4756 Suisun Valley Road  
Suisun Valley, CA 94534  
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707 580 5654 cell  
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[info@woodenvalley.com](mailto:info@woodenvalley.com)

**Maurry Koch - Secretary**

5055 Business Center Drive Suite 108  
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[maurry@suisun-valley.com](mailto:maurry@suisun-valley.com)

**Gary Mangels - Treasurer**

2294 Morrison Lane  
Suisun Valley, CA 94534  
(707) 864-1591  
[mkmangels@sv.com](mailto:mkmangels@sv.com)

**Jim Parr - Director**

4285 Suisun Valley Road  
Suisun Valley, CA 94534  
(707) 864-2154  
(707) 427-0455  
[gordonvalleyfarms@aol.com](mailto:gordonvalleyfarms@aol.com)

**Rick Wehman - Director**

4589 Abernathy Road  
Suisun Valley, CA 94534  
(707) 426-4424  
(707) 426-4545 fax  
[ledgewoodcreek@msn.com](mailto:ledgewoodcreek@msn.com)

**Stephen Tenbrink - Director**

5260 Gordon Valley Road  
Suisun Valley, CA 94534  
(707) 438-7887  
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**Chris Estes - Director**

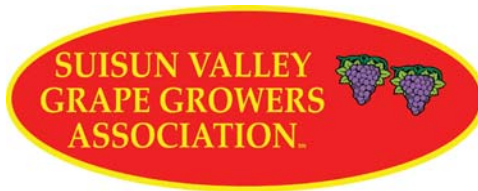
5304 Williams Road  
Suisun Valley, CA 94534  
(707) 435-9191  
(707) 974-3718 fax  
[chrise@FPSmithEQ.com](mailto:chrise@FPSmithEQ.com)

**Howard Babcock - Director**

2434 Morrison Lane  
Suisun Valley, CA 94534  
(707) 864-0440  
[howard@babcockgrapes.com](mailto:howard@babcockgrapes.com)

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Windsor, CA 94534  
(707) 620-0788  
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[info@diaz-communications.com](mailto:info@diaz-communications.com)  
[diaz-communications.com](http://diaz-communications.com)



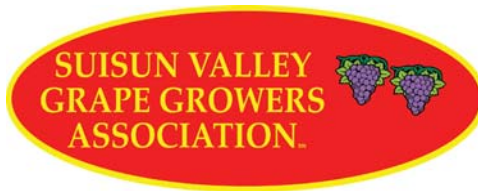
## Member Contact List

### Grower Members

### Contact

### Phone

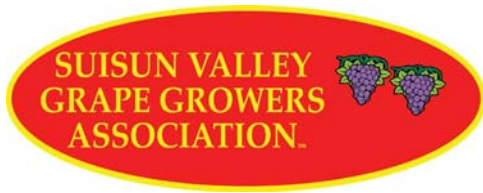
A & J Custom Farming	Bobby & Renee Balestra	707-863-0165
A.J. Vineyards	Willis & Reba Johnson	707-226-2876
Andrews Vineyards	Jeffrey Miller	707-864-8427
Babcock Vineyard	Catherine & Richard Zimmerman	707-429-2519
Babcock Vineyards, Inc.	Fred Abruzzini	707-422-9575
Balestra & Balestra	Jay Adair	707-425-3560
Biggs Family Trust	Frank & Dorothy Andrews	707-864-1818
C & J Ranch	Brian Babcock	707-864-1222
Clayton Vineyards – Ellis Clayton Vineyards	Howard Babcock	707-864-0719
Estes Vineyards	Larry & Lisa Balestra	707-864-0269
Gianno Vineyard	Biggs Family	707-435-9367
Gordon Valley Farms	Curt and Jeanette Lindemann	707-422-7436
Hansen Farms	Ester Engel Rowland	707-435-9191
J & E Investments	Chris & Tracie Estes	707-86408229
Jones Ranch	Mary & Leonard Gianno	707 427-0455
Koch Vineyards	Don Johnson & Jim Parr	707-421-2359
Lanny Capp Vineyard	James Peterson	510-547-5549
Lanza Vineyards Inc.	Jones	707-864-1072
<b>Ledgewood Creek Winery</b>	Maurice & Gloria Koch	707-863-9779
Ledgewood Vineyards	Lanny & Sandra Capp	707-425-3932
Loney Ranch	Ken Lanza   Ron Lanza	707-864-0730
M & L Ranch, Lindemann Enterprises	<b>Rick Wehman</b>	<b>707-426-4424</b>
M. German & Son Fruit Co.	Roger King	707-425-9076
Mangels Ranch	Ron & Kim Loney	707-425-8933
Monroe Ranch	Frank and Sarah Lindemann	707-864-0628
Morrison Ranch	Michael German	707-425-3150
Niffenegger Vineyard	John Mangels & Gary Mangles	707-864-1591
Oberti Vineyards	James Delehanty	650-342-3996
Scarlett's Family Vineyard	Gary Mangles	707-864-1591
Smith Family Partners	Ross Niffenegger	707-864-0226
Solano Foothill Vineyard, LLC	Oberti Family	707-864-1521
Tenbrink Ranch	Katherine Frances Scarlett	707-425-2732
Tooby Vineyard	Stephen P. Smith	925-680-6882
Twin Creek Vineyards   Brocap Vineyards	Teresa & John Wignall	707-963-2590
Upper Valley Vineyards - Hansen Farms	Steven Tenbrink	707-438-7887
Vernasca Vineyards	Christine and A. R. Tooby	707-422-2141
Vezér Family Vineyards	Dan & Marguerite Capp	707-425-4179
Wine & Walker Ranch	Robert Hansen	707-421-2359
Wolfskill Ranches	Pete Vernasca	707-864-8350
	Frank Vezér	707-435-8082
	Paul & Bonnie Herman	707-863-8830
	Bradley and Renee Wolfskill	707-422-4184



## Associate Member Contact List

Member	Contact	Phone
	Jack Batson	
	Andrea M. Bosco	
	Keith Grimson	707-864-6463
	Alf Burtleson	707-963-2916
Alf Burtleson Construction		707-433-6525
Allied Grape Growers		707-745-1116
All-Points Petroleum	Ron Myska	<b>707-864-1818</b>
<b>Bask Cellars</b>	<b>Brian Babcock</b>	
California Association of Wine Growers	Karen Rose	916-924-5370
Country Estates Inc	Gloria M. Koch	707-863-9779
D & B Ranch	Dennis & Sandi, of D & B	
Diaz Communications	Jose & Jo Diaz	707-620-0788
Family Winemakers of California	Paul Kronenberg	916-498-7500
FP Smith Parts & Equipment	Pete Smith	707-864-1122
Gaw Van Male, Counselors at Law	Dean Kackley	707-252-9000
Green Valley Tractor	Ron & Kim Loney	707-425-8933
Greystone Vineyards	Dwight & Elaine Woodard	707-425-6210
Jim Lewis Viticultural Services	Jim Lewis	707-257-3061
P.S. I Love You	Jo Diaz	707-620-0788
Mercer Grapevines	Guillaume	707-689-6789
Magorian Mine Services	Wine Caves Division	707-553-2332
State Farm Insurance	Gary Falati	707-422-4311
SVFGA		
The Henry Wine Group	Don Locke	707-745-8500
Turrentine Wine Brokerage	Bill Turrentine	415-209-9463
Vineyard Specialists	Gail Gant	916-961-6166
Wirth Ranch	Lillian Wirth	707-864-0545
<b>Wooden Valley Winery</b>	<b>Ron Lanza</b>	<b>707-864-0730</b>

**Blue Color = Established Winery in Suisun Valley**



## Suisun Valley ~ Planted Varietal List



<b>BARBERA</b>	<b>MERLOT</b>	<b>PINOT NOIR</b>	<b>SEMILLON</b>
<b>CABERNET FRANC</b>	<b>MOUVEDRE</b>	<b>PRIMITIVO</b>	<b>SHIRAZ</b>
<b>CABERNET SAUVIGNON</b>	<b>MUSCAT CANELLI</b>	<b>RIESLING</b>	<b>SYRAH</b>
<b>CHARDONNAY</b>	<b>PETITE SIRAH</b>	<b>ROUSANNE</b>	<b>VIOGNIER</b>
<b>GAMAY</b>	<b>PETIT VERDOT</b>	<b>SANGIOVESE</b>	<b>WHITE REISLING</b>
<b>GRENACHE</b>	<b>PINOT GRIS</b>	<b>SAUVIGNON BLANC</b>	<b>ZINFANDEL</b>





## 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.

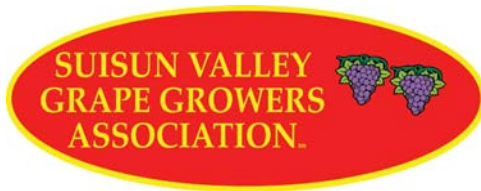
While phylloxera (and later Prohibition) did much to disrupt the local grape industry in the early 1900's, a strong rebound for grapes and wine commenced in the post WWII economic expansion. Wine industry cycles over the years have continued to increase viticultural acreage, change varietal plantings,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

Suisun Valley Grape Growers Association \* 4160 Suisun Valley Road, Suite E – 141  
Suisun Valley, CA 94534 \* [www.svgga.com](http://www.svgga.com) \* [info@svgga.com](mailto:info@svgga.com)



## **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

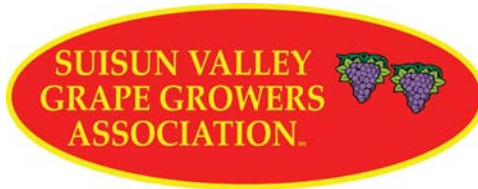
### **Association Objectives**

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 terrior, 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 varieties 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.





For Immediate Release  
March 10, 2009

Media Contact: Jo Diaz  
(707) 620-0788

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*Suisun Valley AVA Climate, Topography, and Wine Grape  
Characterization Study by Terra Spase Delivered to SVGGA  
Report from Paul Skinner Delivered to Suisun Valley Wine Grape Growers*

Suisun Valley, CA: In May of 2008, Suisun Valley Grape Growers Association hired **Terra Spase** of Napa, California, to begin the process of scientifically defining their terroir. Proprietor **Paul Skinner** and his staff immediately initiated Phase 1, which was to inventory and assess the conditions of the available climatic and topographic data for the Suisun Valley AVA.

On July 8, 2008, Terra Spase delivered Phase 2 to SVGGA, which included the data compilation phase consisting of the various datasets for analysis, including the following:

- Narrowing target climatic parameters
- Processing supplemental PRISM (Parameter-elevation Regression on Independent Slopes Model) weather dataset for analysis and mapping
- Extracting target parameters from PRISM and local climate datasets
- Target parameters summarizing for key time periods
- Processing of elevation data in preparation for mapping the GIS analysis
- Promising trends in data

On February 3, 2009, Paul W. Skinner, Ph.D. delivered his "Climate, Topography and Wine Grapes in the Suisun Valley AVA" report to the Suisun Valley Grape Growers Association Board of Directors' meeting, commissioned by SVGGA. In his introduction, Skinner indicates that because high intensity climate monitoring has been implemented in Suisun Valley with the installation of several automated weather stations, documentation of mesoclimates within the established AVA has provided a valuable, historical record from which to draw upon, in order to deliver the report.

Skinner writes, "The establishment of their own weather station network to collect weather data on a 24 hr basis by the Suisun Valley grape growers shows forward thinking on their part. It was also an important step forward for the Suisun Valley Grape Growers Association to recognize the value of developing this report for the use of the wine community and their constituents." It is Skinner's hope that Terra Spase's analysis of the climate data that was collected [to date] will become the basis for an improved understanding of how weather and climate attributes define Suisun Valley AVA's potential for producing world class grapes from different wine grape varieties.

Terra Spase recognizes Suisun Valley's AVA with the following:

- Located in the North Coast AVA, Suisun is one of the oldest, continually producing wine grape zones in the West.

- It is increasingly recognized as a significant player in California's luxury and ultra-premium wine grape market segments.
- Wine grapes support in-valley wineries, as well as wine companies in Napa and Sonoma.
- SV grape growers produce popular wine grape varieties, such as Cabernet Sauvignon, Sauvignon Blanc, and Chardonnay; as well as specialty cultivars, such as Syrah, Petite Sirah, Barbara, Grenache, Sangiovese, and Zinfandel.

Noteworthy climate findings include what was once empirically understood by the farmers and discussed as anecdotal evidence, and are now validated by this academic study; namely, situated in close proximity to the San Francisco Bay complex, portions of this area exert influence on the regions' climate.

The report delivers the AVA's geography in great detail; which to date has yet to be so thoroughly recorded. Considering all aspects of elevation, slope, and distribution aspects, the report recommends that if the wine grape growers take all aspects of the detailed topographical effect into account in the designing and production phases of their vineyards, development will significantly increase their likelihood of producing ultra-premium grapes and wines from their vineyards.

**CLIMATE DATA AND MONITORING EFFORTS:** The Terra Spase report delivers extensive maps, which present a visual account for all of Terra Spase's findings (examples):

- Suisun Valley AVA and Vicinity
- Separate maps for Elevation, Slope, and Aspect
- Automated Weather Stations in the Suisun Valley AVA
- Separate Precipitation, Humidity, and Temperature maps

Extensive charts deliver extensive supporting material for all of their findings (examples):

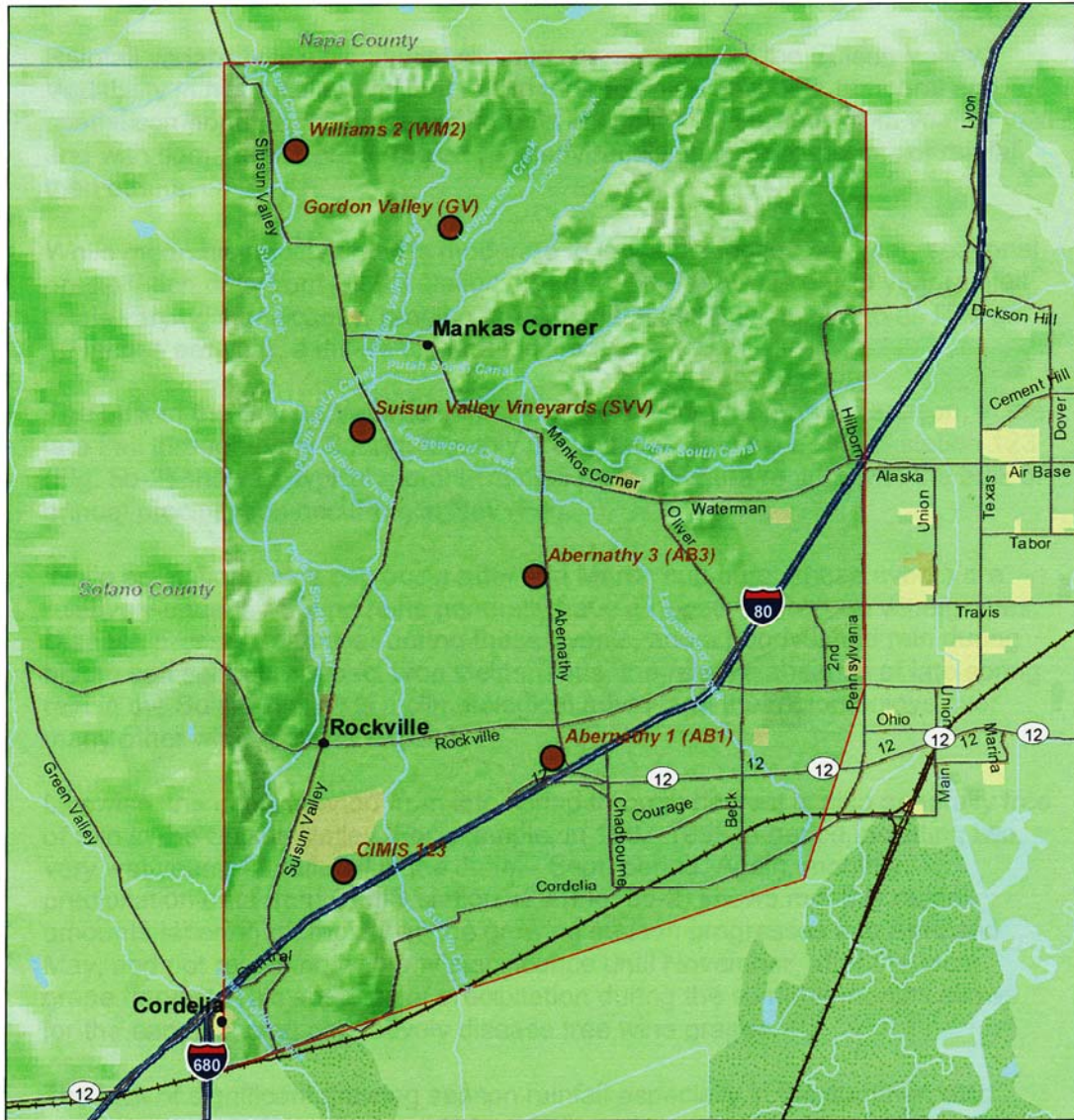
- Seasonal Precipitation (in) 1995-2008; (CIMIS 123)
- Monthly Precipitation (in) 1999 (CIMIS 123)
- Mean Weather Precipitation (in) 1995-2007 – CIMIS 123
- 2007 Monthly Rainfall (in) Williams2 and Abernathy 1 stations.

With data from the following sources, much was demonstrated from the average monthly temperatures from Terra Spase's initial findings.

- **CIMIS 123** ~ California Irrigation Management Information System: lowest, southwest
- **AB1** ~ Abernathy 1: southeast quadrant
- **AB3** ~ Abernathy 3: south, mid-valley
- **SSV** ~ Suisun Valley: west, mid-valley
- **GV** ~ Gordon Valley; central, upper-valley
- **WL2** ~ Williams 2: northwest quadrant
- **PRISM** ~ Program at Oregon State University developed by Dr. Christopher Daly, the PRISM group director.

The map below is used with permission of Terra Spase.

## Automated Weather Stations in the Suisun Valley AVA



Suisun Valley's unique, distinguishing features:

- Precipitation ~ Springtime rains can occur after mid March bud burst, but are relatively unusual. This relative absence of late spring rain in Suisun Valley is a climatological advantage the region enjoys over many other winegrape growing regions.
- The absence of precipitation during the summer months allows for the early ripening of relatively disease free winegrapes.
- Growing degree day data indicate conditions range from Winkler's Region III to Region V, within Suisun Valley AVA in different years, defining the quality of their winegrapes.
- As a characteristic of many California coastal valleys opening onto the San Francisco Bay complex, the northern parts of the Suisun Valley region tend to see higher maximum and lower minimum temperatures than are observed in the southern parts of the region.

- The lower portion of the Suisun Valley is subject to steady southwesterly, bay influenced breezes beginning in the late springtime. Annually occurring springtime northwesterly flow along the Northern California coast pushes marine air into the San Francisco bay and up through the San Pablo bay into the Suisun Valley region.
- Suisun Valley's eight-mile length of Springtime (March-April) Growing Degree Days are very closely aligned to Napa Valley's 30 mile stretch, just in a condensed version.

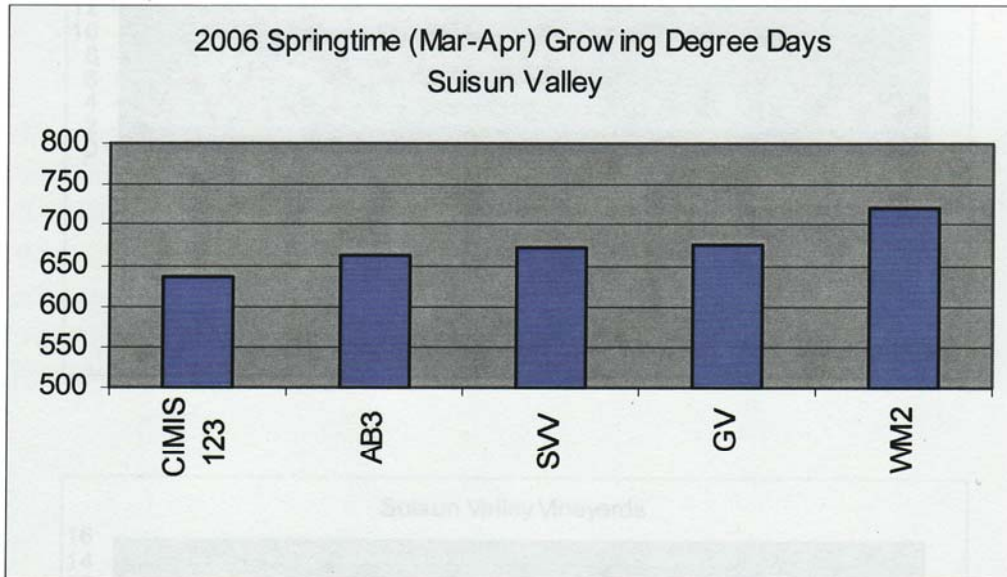


Fig. 5c-11

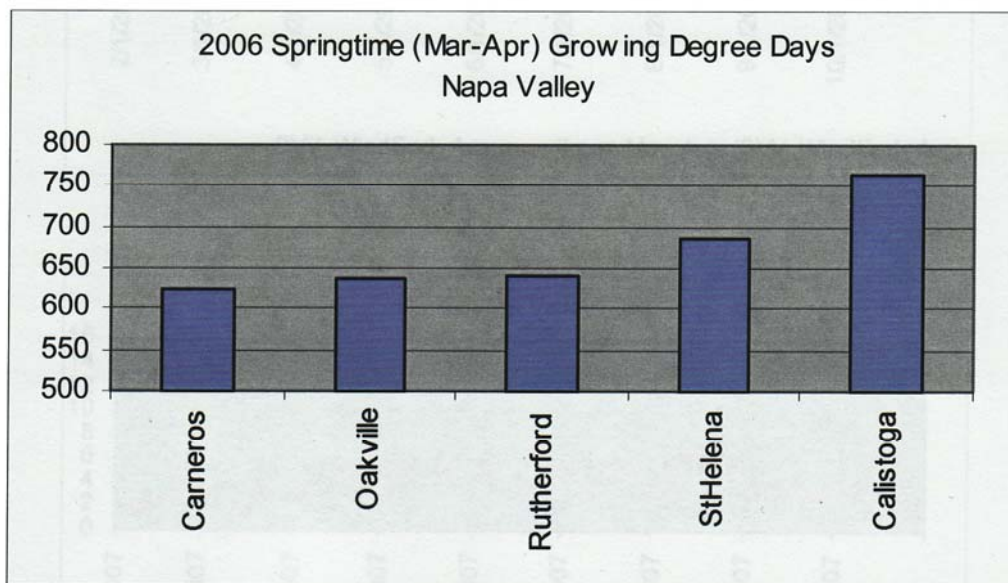
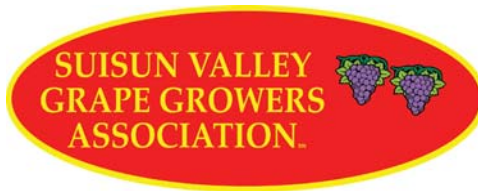


Fig. 5c-12

Used with permission of Terra Spase.

# # #



For Immediate Release  
February 16, 2009

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## Suisun Valley Grape Growers Association Announces *Suisun Valley Passport Sunday, April 19, 2009*

Suisun Valley, CA: Suisun Valley Grape Growers Association continues to expand their strategic marketing plan. As a result, wine companies are beginning to proliferate in the valley. The Grape Growers have formed a Vintners Committee; and, as their first event, they're planning a day trip into Suisun Valley for the public to enjoy. Consumers are being invited to taste the excellent wines being produced in Suisun Valley.

**Who:** Seven wine company locations (Blue Victorian, Ledgewood Creek, Suisun Valley Wine Co-op, Tenbrink Family Winery, Vezér Family Vineyards, Winterhawk Winery, and Wooden Valley Winery)

**What:** *Suisun Valley Passport*

**When:** Sunday ~ April 19, 2009, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

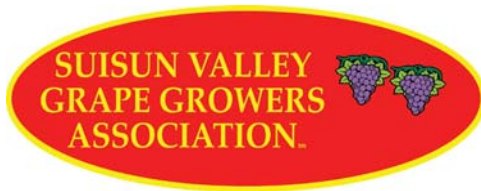
**Where:** Suisun Valley, California

**Details:** \$25 for the seven sites, \$15 for a Designated Driver

- 250 tickets are available through each winery/tasting room location
- Each site will have a restaurant or catered food included in the ticket price
- Glass and passport to be picked up at place of purchase
- Portion of ticket price will go to North Bay Hospice

For more information, contact Jo Diaz at [707] 620-0788 or [jo@diaz-communications.com](mailto:jo@diaz-communications.com).

# # #



**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 12, 2008

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## Suisun Valley Will Celebrate their AVA's 26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary With a Tasting of Their Suisun Valley Appellated Wines And a Second Annual Winemaker Dinner

**SUISUN VALLEY:** In December of 2007, Suisun Valley celebrated 25 years of being an AVA (American Viticultural Area, as designated by the TTB). As was written at that time, this is only an American historical AVA perspective, because this valley - like all others in the United States - has much deeper farming roots. American Viticultural Areas began in order to establish order within the US, for terroir definition purposes.

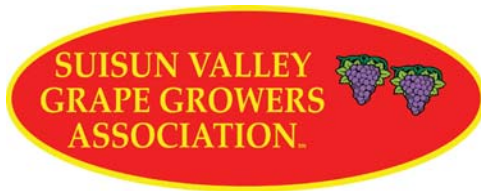
The [Suisun Valley Grape Growers Association](#) threw a party last year, and wondered who would come. As it turned out, it seemed the entire valley came to the celebration. It was so successful, in fact, that attendees barely fit into the Vintage Caffè location. The front line learning from was that in the following year (December 2008) this event had to move to a larger venue... And so it has.

On **Saturday, December 27, 2008**, at the **Clubhouse at Rancho Solano**, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., a reception for an appellation wine tasting is scheduled. Many of the wines that have Suisun Valley on their labels will be tasted by attendees. At 7:30 p.m., the evening will then segue into a winemaker dinner. Wines featured during the evening are going to be Suisun Valley Appellation wines, only, with winemakers being given an opportunity throughout the reception and dinner to present their winemaking philosophies, and to talk about their particular wines.

The 26<sup>th</sup> AVA Anniversary Reception | Winemaker Dinner is open to the general public, for guests to come visit with winemakers and taste their Suisun Valley wines. Wines featured at the dinner will be Suisun Valley's Best Appellated Wines. Limited tickets are available, as last year's celebration was a complete sell out!

Tickets for this must be purchased in advance of the event, cost \$75.00, and may be purchased by calling (707) 580-4263.

# # #



For Immediate Release  
August 5, 2008

Media Contact: Jo Diaz  
(707) 620-0788

[jo@diaz-communications.com](mailto:jo@diaz-communications.com)

*Suisun Valley Grape Growers Face their Next Big Challenge:  
Under supply within the industry will bring greater demand for their wines,  
but will they be ready to meet that demand, all things considered?*

Suisun Valley, CA: Suisun Valley Grape Growers Association members have seen their share of changes since their association was created in 2003. There's an imminent upswing in the wine business that's going to greatly benefit them, as they ready to meet their newest challenge... an industry faced with an undersupply.

Winegrape growers in Suisun Valley's fundamental challenge and impetus for forming as a grape growers' association came with the sudden and major loss of key, corporate North Coast oral contracts for many of the farmers. In 2000-2001, just when a major corporation purchased Turner Road, the start of the over supply period began. As is always the case in a time of over supply, it caused large corporations to reconsider their grower relationships. In that process, those corporations severed most of their existing grower relationships with the Suisun grapegrowers.

This proved to be devastating; therefore, in order to begin a recovery for the AVA growers' economy, they banded together. This collective-mind thought process allowed them to face the overriding fact that a commodity based company can easily become a downdraft to growers, when all conditions are perfectly in place. They consequently organized, strategized, and completely rethought the valley's business model.

Knowing that the industry operates in cycles of over supply and then under supply, the Suisun Valley neighbors began to change their grapes growing practices;



instituting all methods that would guarantee the next cycle of undersupply that would have their grapes be ready for Prime Time.

According to Suisun Valley Grape Growers Association President Roger King, “We learned and developed a strategic plan that focused us away from any and all commodity-based production. This occurrence caused us begin to specialize on ultra premium and luxury class supply for a new client base. Those clients would be searching for the best possible fruit available within the North Coast AVA, and our grapes would succeed because they’d also be priced very competitively.”

This is how the Suisun Valley grape growers attacked and are now winning recognition as a fundamental part of the North Coast. Their sales message being evaluated during the oversupply period now has a very new voice, as they face the under supply predicted for the 2008 harvest. This is their major turn around.

Undersupply may prove to be the most advantageous challenge yet to be met, before any slumps in the cycles come back around again.

One question to consider in this process is, “Will this undersupply limit the Suisun Valley grapegrowers’ prospects for growth?”

Not in the least, if their historic tenacity is any indication of whether or not they’ll accomplish something with this undersupply period. Suisun Valley grapegrowers are determined to continue emerging with each new cycle more triumphant than the ones earlier set before them. How they’ll do it will be with continued innovative planning and policy setting.

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## *Suisun Valley AVA Climate and Topography Characterization Study*

### *Progress Report from Paul Skinner's Terra Spase*

Suisun Valley, CA: In May of 2008, Suisun Valley Grape Growers Association hired **Terra Spase** of Napa, California, to begin the process of scientifically defining their terroir. Proprietor **Paul Skinner** and his staff immediately initiated Phase 1, which was to inventory and assess the conditions of the available climatic and topographic data for the Suisun Valley AVA.

Terra Spase has just delivered Phase 2 to SVGGA, which included the data compilation phase consisting of the various datasets for analysis, including the following:

- Narrowing target climatic parameters
- Processing supplemental PRISM (Parameter-elevation Regression on Independent Slopes Model) weather dataset for analysis and mapping
- Extracting target parameters from PRISM and local climate datasets
- Target parameters summarizing for key time periods
- Processing of elevation data in preparation for mapping the GIS analysis
- Promising trends in data

objectives and processes to date, combined with more of the last paragraph or two, done in simple old English, might be a much better approach.

With data from the following weather stations, much was demonstrated from the average monthly temperatures from March 2007 through July of 2007's initial findings:

**AB1** ~ Abernathy 1: southeast quadrant

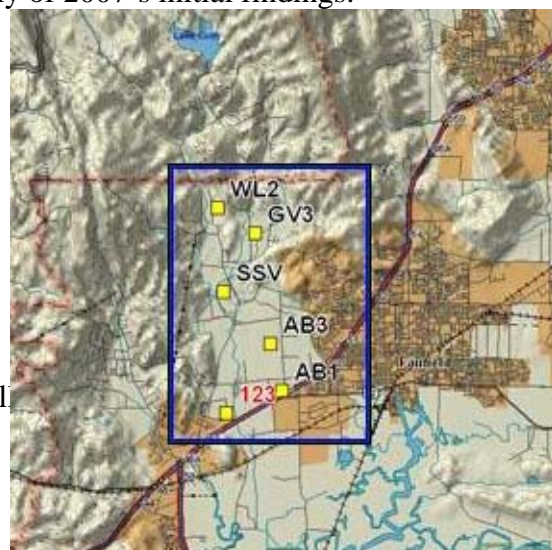
**AB3** ~ Abernathy 3: south, mid-valley

**SSV** ~ Suisun Valley: west, mid-valley

**WL2** ~ Williams 2: northwest

The coolest part of the valley is located in the southeast quadrant, with a climate paralleling Carneros in temperatures and relative humidity. The warmest part of the valley is on the Suisun | Napa County lines. Continuing scientific studies will be shared with Suisun Valley Grape Growers Association, as they development.

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## *Why Buy Suisun Valley Grapes?*

- Outstanding quality fruit serving super premium to luxury category wines = BEST VALUE
- Marine influence of San Pablo Bay & Suisun Bay
- California North Coast AVA
- Unique grower | buyer relationship
  - In Suisun Valley, some growers produce both cool climate Chardonnay in southern Suisun Valley and warm climate Cabernet in northern Suisun Valley
- Primary Fruit: Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot
- Niche Fruit in small quantity:

Barbera	Muscat Canelli
Primitivo	Semillon
Cabernet Franc	Petite Sirah
Riesling	Syrah
Gamay	Petit Verdot
Rousanne	Viognier
Grenache	Pinot Gris
Sangiovese	White Riesling
Mouvedre	Pinot Noir
Sauvignon Blanc	Zinfandel

# Suisun Valley ~ AVA

