



Press Kit

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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

OFFICERS | DIRECTORS (2004)

President – Roger King	Treasurer – Chris Meade	Director – Dean Frisbie
Vice President – Howard Babcock	Director – Ken Lanza	Director – Frank Lindemann
Secretary – Maurry Koch	Director – Dan Capp	Director – Gary Mangles

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 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

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 Balestra & Balestra
 Bella Vista Ranch
 Biggs Family Trust
 Bourland Vineyards
 C & J Ranch
 Delehanty Properties
 Ellis-Engel Ranch
 Estes Vineyards
 Gianni Vineyard
 Greystone Creek
 Greystone Vineyards
 Hansen Farms - Upper Valley Vineyards

Lanny Capp Vineyard
 Lanza Vineyards Inc.
Ledgewood Creek Winery

Ledgewood Vineyards
 Loney Ranch
 M & L Ranch
 M. German & Son Fruit Co.
 Mangels Ranch
Mankas Hills Vineyards
 Meades Ranch
 Niffenegger Vineyard
 Phillips Vineyard
 Scarlett's Family Vineyard
 Solano Foothill Vineyard, LLC
 Tenbrink Ranch
 Tooby Vineyard
 Twin Creek Vineyards | Brocap Vineyards
 Vernasca Vineyards
 Wine & Walker Ranch
 Wolfskill Ranches

Associate Members

Alf Burtleson Construction
 Green Valley Tractor
 Turrentine Wine Brokerage
 Vineyard Specialists
 V. Sattui
 Wirth Ranch
Wooden Valley Winery

Contact

Fred Abruzzini
 Jay Adair
 Gary Ames
 Frank & Dorothy Andrews
 Brian Babcock
 Howard Babcock
 Larry & Lisa Balestra
 Carty Brothers
 Biggs Family
 Tom & Minny Bourland
 Curt and Jeanette Lindemann
 James Delehanty
 Ester Engel Rowland
 Chris & Tracie Estes
 Mary & Leonard Gianni
 Maurice & Gloria Koch
 Dwight & Elaine Woodard
 Robert Hansen
 Paul & Bonnie Herman
 Willis & Reba Johnson
 Lanny & Sandra Capp
 Ken Lanza | Ron Lanza
Dean Frisbie
 Roger King
 Ron & Kim Loney
 Frank and Sarah Lindemann
 Michael German
 John Mangels
Mario Rosso
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 707-863-9779
 707-425-6210
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 707-863-0165
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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 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.



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 Valdiguie

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