



Suisun Valley

Grape Growers Association

2008 Press Kit ~ Table of Contents

Fact Sheet.....	2
Principal Contact List.....	3
Member Contact List.....	4
Associate Member List.....	5
Suisun Valley ~ Planted Varieties.....	6
Suisun Valley History.....	7
SVGGA ~ Overview.....	8
Suisun Valley ~ 25 th Anniversary of Appellation Designation (12/14/07)...	9
Signs of Growth are Spreading through the Valley (09/11/07)	10-12
Why Buy Suisun Valley Grapes.....	13
Suisun Valley Map.....	14
Suisun Valley Map with vineyard images.....	15



FACT SHEET

ASSOCIATION INFORMATION

4160 Suisun Valley Road, Suite E – 141
Suisun Valley, CA 94534
E-mail: info@svgga.com

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
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
Ledgewood Creek Winery	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	Rick Wehman	707-426-4424
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 Mangels	707-864-1591
Oberti Vineyards	James Delehanty	650-342-3996
Scarlett's Family Vineyard	Gary Mangels	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
Alf Burtleson Construction	Jack Batson	707-864-6463
Allied Grape Growers	Andrea M. Bosco	707-963-2916
All-Points Petroleum	Keith Grimson	707-433-6525
Bask Cellars	Alf Burtleson	707-745-1116
California Association of Wine Growers	Ron Myska	707-864-1818
Country Estates Inc	Brian Babcock	916-924-5370
D & B Ranch	Karen Rose	707-863-9779
Diaz Communications	Gloria M. Koch	
Family Winemakers of California	Dennis & Sandi, of D & B	707-620-0788
FP Smith Parts & Equipment	Jose & Jo Diaz	916-498-7500
Gaw Van Male, Counselors at Law	Paul Kronenberg	707-864-1122
Green Valley Tractor	Pete Smith	707-252-9000
Greystone Vineyards	Dean Kackley	707-425-8933
Jim Lewis Viticultural Services	Ron & Kim Loney	707-425-6210
P.S. I Love You	Dwight & Elaine Woodard	707-257-3061
Mercer Grapevines	Jim Lewis	707-620-0788
Magorian Mine Services	Jo Diaz	707-689-6789
State Farm Insurance	Guillaume	707-553-2332
SVFGA	Wine Caves Division	707-422-4311
The Henry Wine Group	Gary Falati	
Turrentine Wine Brokerage	Don Locke	707-745-8500
Vineyard Specialists	Bill Turrentine	415-209-9463
Wirth Ranch	Gail Gant	916-961-6166
Wooden Valley Winery	Lillian Wirth	707-864-0545
	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.



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 14, 2007

Media Contact: Jo Diaz
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25th Anniversary

Of Appellation Designation

SUISUN VALLEY: The Silver Anniversary kick-off for California's twelfth historical AVA is a winemaker dinner with Suisun Valley Grape Growers and Winemakers, Thursday, December 27, 2007, at 6:30 p.m., Vintage Caffè, Mankas Corner, Suisun Valley.

Immediately Following the winemaker dinner, Suisun Valley Grape Growers have planned a celebratory weekend, with four Suisun Valley tasting room hosting their festivities:

- Saturday, December 29, and Sunday, December 30, 2007, from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The **four host locations** are the following:

- *Ledgewood Creek Winery*, 4589 Abernathy Road
- *Suisun Valley Wine Cooperative*, 4495 Suisun Valley Road
- *Vézér Family Vineyard Tasting Room*, 5066 Clayton Road
- *Wooden Valley Winery*, 4756 Suisun Valley Road

This is going to be a premium wine tasting and specialty food paring weekend, in order to showcase the exceptional wines being crafted from Suisun Valley wine grapes.

- Complimentary logo wine glasses will be offered at each location
- A wide variety of foods and savory samples will be available, with each location determining what will be offered
- Barrel tasting by select vintners
- Vertical wine tastings, also by select vintners

During this festive holiday week, the Suisun Valley Grape Growers Association, in collaboration with their tasting room neighbors, are looking forward to a delightful weekend. Independent Suisun Valley tasting rooms will be showcasing the best that their valley has to offer, welcoming the public to come share and enjoy in their celebrations.

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 11, 2007

Media Contact: Jo Diaz
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**Signs of Growth are Spreading through the Valley
*Literally and Figuratively***

**Suisun Valley prepares to celebrate its
25th AVA Anniversary this December 2007**

SUISUN VALLEY: Viticulture history began for Suisun Valley in the late 1800s. From that time until 1980, Suisun Valley winegrape growers kept their noses to the grindstone quietly growing wine grapes. In 1981, the United States instituted **American Viticultural Areas**, in order to distinguish grape growing regions. By February 1981, the first region to receive designation was Napa Valley, with 225,280 acres.

One would think that it would be decades before "little known" Suisun Valley would become an AVA; however, astute growers in the Western Solano County Grape Growers Association successfully petitioned the BATF, and received formal designation for Suisun Valley as an identified AVA by December 27, 1982. This made Suisun Valley the twelfth California AVA; then, all became quiet again in that winegrape growing region.

AVA (California <u>only</u> documented)*	ACRES	DATE (*Wine Institute)
1. Napa Valley	225,280	02/27/1981
2. Santa Maria Valley	80,000	09/04/1981
3. San Pasqual Valley	9,000	09/16/1981
4. Guenoc Valley	4,396	12/21/1981
5. Santa Cruz Mountains	0.00	01/04/1982
6. Sonoma Valley	4,000	01/24/1982
7. Lime Kiln Valley	2,300	07/06/1982
8. Chalone	8,540	07/14/1982
9. Paicines	4,500	09/15/1982
10. Cienega Valley	0.00	09/20/1982
11. Livermore Valley	96,000	10/01/1982
12. Suisun Valley	15,360	12/27/1982

In July 2002, a savvy group of winegrape farmers in Suisun Valley reunited for a common purpose. Without a cohesive marketing plan, the growers realized that they'd continue to be dismissed each harvest as they tried to sell their grapes for fair market value. With their base of operation on the other side of the Vaca Mountain Range (a.k.a. Silverado Mountains), Suisun Valley was constantly being eclipsed by neighboring Napa. The Suisun Valley Grape Growers Association was formed, which has accelerated their purpose, growth, and direction in the last



five years in ways no one could have imagined when they began, but can now be visibly acknowledged.

Prior to SVGGA's inception, the **Lanza** family of **Wooden Valley** played a major, albeit quiet, role. In 1955, **Mario Lanza** bought property in Suisun from a friend. For others, like **Dean Frisbie** of **Ledgewood Creek Winery & Vineyards** (who's been in Suisun Valley since 1985, when he first bought a pear farm and converted it to vineyards) coming into the valley was a reinventing of oneself. And for yet others, like **Roger King** of **King Andrews Vineyard**, some have quietly arrived to escape the hectic corporate world. It's been a non-descript endeavor, focused more on growing the fruit than on anything else.

Signs of Growth



(Left) New cohesive sign program in progress ~ (Right) Suisun Valley Wine Cooperative

As Suisun Valley growers and producers begin to focus on what the association will be doing in the upcoming year to celebrate, they can't help but reflect back on what's happened within the last five, once they decided to drive their message forward.

- Cohesive sign program is in place to distinguish their locations
- Co-op tasting room created (4495 Suisun Valley Road) to showcase wines
- More brands are proudly putting Suisun Valley on their labels as an AVA
- Awareness and demand for Suisun Valley fruit is on the rise
- Great scores for wines appalliated to Suisun Valley has produced rapid awareness

The Co-op tasting room is broadly managed by **Doug Sparks** of the **Sunset Cellars** label, with each of the featured brands also assuming tasting room duties. As an early adopter for appalliating his wines to Suisun Valley, Doug Sparks of Sunset Cellars was in the right place at the right time. The need for a tasting room within the valley, and Doug's needs to have a tasting room, collided.

Current Brands in Suisun Valley Wine Coop Tasting Room:

○ King Andrews Vineyards	○ Twilight Ridge
○ Shale Peak Vineyards	○ Winterhawk
○ Sunset Cellars, LLC	



Additional Brands Appellated to Suisun Valley

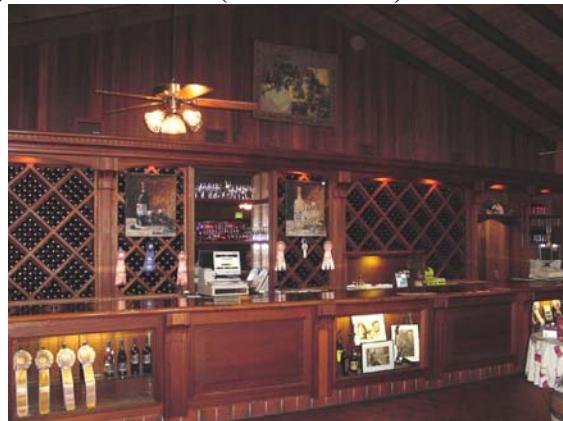
- **Bask Cellars** (Suisun)
- **Koch Wine** (Suisun)
- **Ledgewood Creek** (Suisun)
- **Mankas Hills Vineyards** (Suisun)
- **Vezér Family Vineyard** (Suisun)
- **Wooden Valley** (Suisun)
- **Croze** (Yountville)
- **Forlorn Hope** (Napa)
- **Manifesto!** (Napa)
- **Olabisi Wines** (Calistoga)
- **Tenbrink**
- **Thomas Michael Cellars** (Yountville)
- **Trahan Winery** (Rutherford)

Tasting Rooms in Suisun Valley

- **Ledgewood Creek Winery**
- **Suisun Valley Wine Cooperative**
- **Vezér Family Vineyard**
- **Wooden Valley Winery**



Vezér Family Vineyard buildings, Mankas Corner (New addition)



(Left) Ledgewood Creek Winery ~ (Right) Wooden Valley Winery

#

Board of Directors ~ 2005
President: Roger King
Vice President: Ken Lanza
Secretary: Maury Koch
Treasurer: Chris Meade
Director: Dan Capp
Director: Dean Frisbie
Director: Howard Babcock
Director: Frank Lindemann
Director: Gary Mangels

Grower Members

A & J Custom Farming
Ames & Albright
Babcock Vineyards, Inc.
Balestra & Balestra
Bella Vista Ranch
Biggs Family Trust
Bourland Vineyards
Brian Babcock
C & J Ranch
Carty Brothers
Catherine & Richard Zimmerman
Chris & Tracy Estes
Delehanty Properties
Ellis-Engel Ranch
Frank and Dorothy Andrews
Gary & Rosa Phillips
Gordon Valley Farm
Greystone Creek
Greystone Vineyards
Hansen Farms/Upper Valley
Vineyards
Jay Adair
Katherine Francis Scarlett
Lanny & Sandra Capp
Lanza Vineyards Inc.
Larry & Lisa Balestra
Ledgewood Creek Winery
Ledgewood Vineyards
Loney Ranch
M & L Ranch
M. German & Son Fruit Co.
Mangels Ranch
Mankas Hills Vineyards
Mary & Leonard Gianno
Meades Ranch
Paul and Bonnie Herman
Ross Niffenegger
Smith Family Partners
Solano Foothill Vineyard, LLC
Tenbrink Ranch
Tooby Vineyard
Twin Creek Vineyards
& Brocap Vineyards
Vernasca Vineyards
Willis & Reba Johnson
Wolfskill Ranches

Appellated Wineries:

Ledgewood Creek Winery
Mankas Hills Vineyards
Olabisi Wines
Sunset Cellars
Thomas Michael Cellars
Wooden Valley Winery

Associate Members

Alf Burtleson Construction
CA Assoc. of Winegrape
Growers
Country Estates Realty
Family Winemakers of CA
Gail Gant
Green Valley Tractor
Joe Bosco
PS I Love You
Turrentine Wine Brokerage
V. Sattui
Wine America
Wirth Ranch



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

An organization whose members are committed to growing ultra premium wine grapes.

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Suisun Valley, CA 95434 * www.svgga.com * info@svgga.com

Suisun Valley ~ AVA



Suisun Valley AVA

North

Napa-Suisun County Line at Clayton Road



West



East



South

