



SABINA

VINEYARDS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

SABINA VINEYARDS was established in 2002 when David and Susan Sabin completed a major replanting of the vineyards on their hillside property in St. Helena to Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. There has been a long tradition of grape growing on this property dating back to the late 1870's, and the land still bears remnants of well-worn, redwood grape stakes and the cross members of pre-prohibition trellises. Sabina Vineyards is located in an historic corridor sharing a property line to the north with the Old Bale Grist Mill which was built in 1846 and is now a California State Park. Early settlers gathered at the water-powered grist mill to have their corn and wheat ground into meal or flour. A long row of mature olive trees traverses the Sabin's property, sheltering a road that was used by horse-drawn wagons to transport the corn meal and flour from the mill into the town of St. Helena until the early 1900's. An etching of this tree row that is depicted on the Sabina Vineyard's label was made by the Sabin's dear friend, Robert Kelly, an artist who resides in Santa Fe.

The sloping bench where Sabina Vineyards is situated along the foothills of the Mayacamas Range in the western part of St. Helena has become famous for the cultivation of Cabernet Sauvignon. Characteristics of this sub-appellation of the St. Helena AVA are red volcanic soils with a high iron content, a microclimate that funnels moisture from the Pacific Ocean and nearby bays into the area causing wide diurnal temperature swings, and the farming of premiere Bordeaux red grape varieties on sloping hillsides. Neighbors include such well-established winegrowers as Grace Family Vineyard, Vineyard 29 and their Aida Vineyard, Colgin's Tychson Hill, and Stony Hill Vineyard. The wines produced from grapes grown in this area are classic, densely textured and elegant with power and finesse that are quite long-lived.

Vineyards surround the house and winery, and the Sabins have made a devoted commitment to organic farming. Rather than cutting down a large oak tree that shaded a small portion of the vineyard, they take care to allow these grapes to thoroughly ripen, selectively harvesting grapes from the surrounding vines first. The winery, which was built as the foundation of the Sabin's home, was designed with the assistance of winemaker David DeSante to maximize an efficient flow for hands-on, artisanal wine production. Sabina Vineyards' produces two distinct Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignons; one from this St. Helena Estate and another from Oakville.

DAVID AND SUSAN SABIN first visited Napa Valley shortly after their marriage 34 years ago. Most of their adult lives were spent in the Chicago area. The Sabins have three grown children each of whom has contributed to the family wine business. Sabina Vineyards was named in honor of David's mother, Sabina Sabin who was the matriarch of the family. St. Helena felt like home to the Sabins from the first moment that they walked the land. Their property conveys the feeling of a sanctuary, and although close to town, it is quite secluded. For the Sabins it has harmony and a "sense" memory of their favorite places in Pennsylvania where they were both raised surrounded by mature evergreen trees, gently rolling hills, an abundance of fruit trees and natural beauty and symmetry. Together they have conceived and built a winery estate not unlike the small family-owned Burgundian properties they have enjoyed over years of travel to world-renowned wine growing regions. David and Susan have created a little bit of heaven in the Napa Valley incorporating their love of contemporary painting and sculpture. Fine art is found everywhere from along the curving road leading up the hillside to the interior walls of the winery, barrel cellar and their home. The Sabin's have a deep respect for and profound relationship with their land and the natural world. Sabina Vineyards has become a gathering place for family, friends, ideas and wines to flourish.