A NAPA VALLEY ICON

A passion for fine wine mixed with a pioneering spirit is the perfect recipe for a premier Napa Valley winery. This recipe was concocted in part by John Goelet, a descendent of the Guestier wine merchant family of Bordeaux and founder of Clos Du Val winery. In 1970, Goelet hired French-born winemaker Bernard Portet to uncover a new territory with the potential to produce a world-class Cabernet Sauvignon. Two years and five continents later, Portet discovered the Stags Leap District in Napa Valley with the perfect winemaking temperatures and an idyllic terrain. There, Goelet acquired 150 acres of land and founded Clos Du Val, a “small vineyard estate of a small valley.”

Adorning Clos Du Val’s iconic labels since 1972 are The Three Graces: Splendor, Mirth and Joy. These mythical daughters of Zeus represent Clos Du Val’s belief that fine wine, food and friends are life’s grandest treasures.

Among the first Clos du Val wines made was the 1972 Cabernet Sauvignon, one of only six California Cabernets selected for the famous 1976 Judgment of Paris Tasting. Today, Clos Du Val focuses almost exclusively on estate-grown wines. The vineyards in Stags Leap District, Carneros and Yountville include more than 30 different blocks of Cabernet, with a variety of soil types and vine ages. Clos du Val maintains the natural strengths of its vineyards by harvesting later to achieve optimal ripeness, reducing crop yields, increasing dappled sunlight in the vine canopy and enhancing soil fertility.

Clos du Val is now known as a modern winery that preserves vineyard character while adding nuance and silky textural elements. They remain small and dedicated to creating Napa Valley-designated wines. The legendary winery reshaped the world wine map, influenced generations of vintners and has positioned itself for a dynamic and meaningful future.

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