

LYNMAR

Russian River Valley

QUAIL HILL VINEYARD

Quail Hill Vineyard, the home of Lynmar Winery, is a 42-acre estate located in the Laguna Ridge area of the Russian River Valley. Long recognized as a gem in the Russian River Valley, the vineyard possesses superb qualities for growing world-class Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. The combination of the vineyard's location, soil composition, long and cool growing season, dramatic elevation changes, and clone and rootstock selections make this a prized vineyard; one that has been the source for some of the top Pinot Noir and Chardonnay producers in the Russian River Valley. Today, Quail Hill Vineyard is the exclusive source for Lynmar Winery's Reserve and Quail Cuvée wines, as well as the core blend of Lynmar's appellation-designated wines.

Originally planted in 1971, Quail Hill Vineyard has some of the oldest Pinot Noir and Chardonnay vines planted in the Russian River Valley. While the older blocks are valued for their balanced fruit, the winery began a phased replanting of Quail Hill Vineyard in 1996 to better match each sub block with its optimal clonal selection and rootstocks. This replanting program includes 71% of the vineyard and will be completed in 2005. As part of this program, the vineyard and winemaking team tirelessly examined the vineyard when choosing rootstocks, clones, spacing and trellising systems. The result of this careful planning optimizes fruit quality. Today, the vineyard is planted to approximately 55% Pinot Noir. This percentage will grow to 70% during the replanting program underscoring the vineyard and winery team's belief that this is a prime site for Russian River Valley Pinot Noir.

The principles of sustainable and organic agriculture govern vineyard activity. Because the vineyard borders the Laguna de Santa Rosa, the 250 square-mile watershed that is home to mammals, reptiles, native plants and migrating birds, Lynmar's vineyard and winery team uses the most habitat-friendly farming techniques and is sensitive to the needs of the ecosystem. Much of the work is done by hand including pruning, hoeing, leaf removal, and harvesting. The vineyard and winemaking team maintain a philosophy of farming vine-by-vine, in which each vine is treated as a single entity within a block. The goal is to optimize each vine's ability to consistently produce fruit possessing a balance of sugars, acidity, and physiological ripeness.

Located in one of the coolest areas of the Russian River Valley, the site experiences coastal fog penetration from southwest to northeast through the Petaluma Wind Gap, the dominant cooling influence on the region. Combined with cooling influences from the Laguna de Santa Rosa, Northern California's largest complex of freshwater wetlands, the vineyard sees a long, cool growing season with budbreak typically occurring in mid-March and harvest starting in September. These long hangtimes promote mature, rich, full, deep, ripe berry flavors in the fruit and maintain the natural acids and soft tannins that are characteristic of Lynmar's style.

The vineyard is planted primarily east to west on rolling hills ranging in elevation from 50 to 183 feet. The site is blessed with Sebastopol Sandy Loam, well known as one of the best soils for Pinot Noir. With a well-balanced combination of sand, silt and clay, this soil type has ideal pH and drainage qualities for Pinot Noir and Chardonnay vines.

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QUAIL HILL VINEYARD FACTS

- ❖ **Location:** Laguna Ridge area of the Russian River Valley
- ❖ **Varieties:** Pinot Noir and Chardonnay
- ❖ **Wines produced:** Quail Cuvée Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, Russian River Valley Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Vin Gris

Small lots of reserve bottlings, including Five Sisters Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, are made from exceptional vintages. "Five Sisters" is named for owner Lynn Fritz' five daughters. They are crafted from the five best barrels in the winery.

- ❖ **Originally planted:** 1971
- ❖ **Soils:** *Sebastopol Sandy Loam* and *Blucher*
- ❖ **Acreage:** 23.36 acres of Pinot Noir
19.14 acres of Chardonnay
42.50 total acres

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