



Suisun Valley Wine - Suisun Valley, CA

"Sue-Soon"

Press Kit 2021

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The Wines of Suisun Valley California

Suisun Valley was established in 1982 and is one of the oldest AVA's in California. Suisun Valley is home to a group of grape growers and winemakers who put their heart and soul into everything that they do.

Location

Located southeast of Napa Valley (sharing a county line), Suisun Valley lies in the foot slopes of good grape land between the picturesque Vaca Mountains to the east and the St. George Range to the west. The Suisun Bay that connects to the San Francisco Bay sits to the south, lending to a unique cooling coastal breeze. The soil is made up of volcanic rock, silt, sand, and clay giving it the opportunity to grow many different types of wine grapes; having over 28 varieties planted within this eight-mile long and three-mile-wide AVA.

History about the AVA

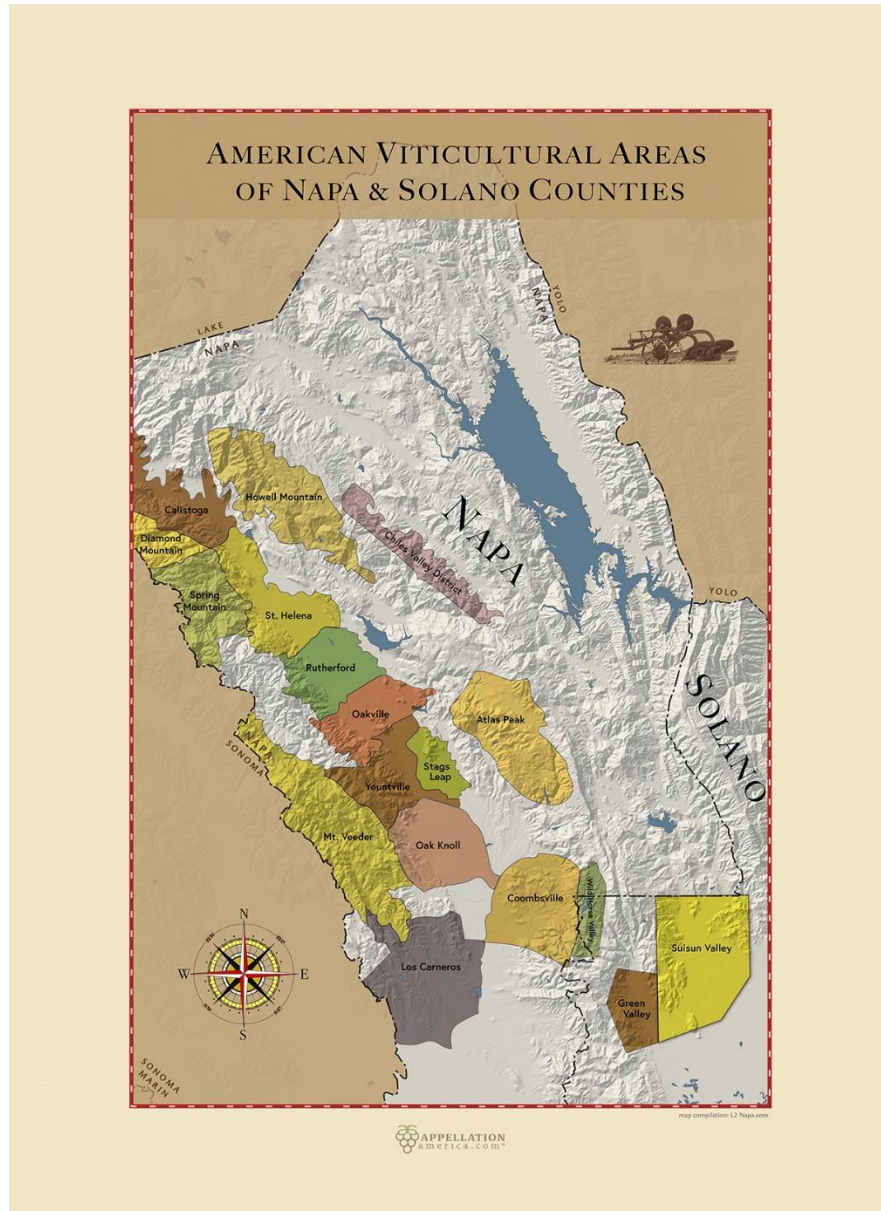
Suisun Valley was established on December 26th, 1982 as California's 12th AVA. "I realized we needed proper recognition for our wines and we established Suisun Valley as the 12th official California American Viticultural Area in 1982, just a year after our neighbor, Napa Valley, was designated. As it should be, Suisun Valley is at the forefront of ultra premium wine grape growing regions – and it shows in our wines" says Suisun Valley AVA founder and winery owner of Wooden Valley Winery, Chick Lanza.

Suisun Valley has been cultivating grapes since the 1800's. Their original grape vines were head pruned and considered field blends. Mangels Winery was the largest winery in the area at that time and produced most of the local wine from Suisun Valley.

Unfortunately, Suisun Valley was not immune to the introduction of phylloxera and were affected. The vineyard growers rebounded after WWII and the Suisun Valley wine industry has been continuously growing ever since. With each passing year acreage has grown along with the quality of vineyard practices, fruit, and wine.

After the establishment of Suisun Valley as an AVA, Suisun Valley was inducted into the North Coast AVA in 1983. The North Coast AVA includes other AVA's such as Napa and Sonoma. This highlighted Suisun Valley's Mediterranean climate and its ability to grow and produce premium wine grapes and luxury wines.

In 2003 the Suisun Valley Grape Growers and Vintner Association was created. The association was a vital part in keeping the valley going when the 2008 grape glut hit. Due to the grape glut in 2008, many oral contracts that Suisun Valley growers had were cancelled and they were forced to get creative. This spun association members to visit the East Coast and strike up a relationship with East Coast grape distributors and wineries. These partnerships helped strengthen Suisun Valley grape growers and are still very much a part of their grape growing culture today.



Climate:

Suisun Valley is considered a Mediterranean climate. It is surrounded by two mountain ranges – the Vaca Mountains and the St. George range. It is also has a marine influence of cool winds coming in from the San Pablo and Suisun Bays. These winds help the grapes mature May through early fall, while in the winter helps minimize dangerous frost.

Suisun Valley’s length of Springtime (March-April) Growing Degree Days are very closely aligned with Napa Valley. If you are interested in viewing the degree day and weather information, Suisun Valley has a weather station set up where you can login and view its findings daily. You can visit [Weather Stations | Suisun Valley Vintners & Growers Association \(svvga.com\)](http://Weather Stations | Suisun Valley Vintners & Growers Association (svvga.com)) to view.

Wine and Wine Grapes:

Suisun Valley has over 28 varieties of wine grapes planted. Albarino, Barbera, Cabernet Sauvignon (multiple clones), Cabernet Franc, Gamay, Grenache, Mourvèdre, Muscat Canelli, Pinot Noir, Petite Sirah, Petit Verdot, Pinot Grigio, Primitivo, Riesling, Roussanne, Sangiovese (Brunello Clone), Sauvignon Blanc, Semillon, Syrah, Tempranillo, Zinfandel, and Viognier are just a few of the grape varieties planted here. Below is the CAWG 2020 Crush Report highlighting the general number of tons coming out of Suisun Valley (currently included in District 5 Solano – but to be showcased as their own District soon).

Data from CAWG Preliminary 2020 Crush Report			
White Grapes		Red Grapes	
Variety	Tons	Variety	Tons
Albarino	41.2	Aglianico	2.9
Chardonnay	2776.7	Barbera	15.2
Chenin Blanc	818.0	Cabernet Franc	2.7
French Colombard	7.0	Cabernet Sauvignon	916.2
Gewurztraminer	239.9	Carignane	19.5
Grenache Blanc	3.1	Charbono	13.5
Muscat Blanc	45.0	Gamay (Napa)	45.2
Pinot Grigio	2725.2	Graciano	0.2
Sauvignon Blanc	825.8	Grenache	12.4
Symphony	81.2	Malbec	16.3
Verdejo	2.7	Merlot	341.0
Verdelho	9.8	Mourvèdre	5.4
Vermentino	0.3	Petite Sirah	733.1
Viognier	159.1	Pinot Noir	5401.9
Riesling	305.3	Primitivo	4.1
Other Whites	2.2	Sangiovese	51.9
		Syrah	92.2
		Tempranillo	7.4
		Teroldego	325.0
		Trousseau	2.8
		Zinfandel	196.2
		Other Reds	6.5

As Chuck Wagner, winemaker/owner of Caymus Vineyards in Napa Valley, and more recently a vintner in Suisun valley making PS under the Caymus-Suisun label puts it, “there is nothing petite about Petite Sirah.” Petite Sirah (also known as Durif) thrives in Suisun Valley. It is characterized by having a deep inky color, soft velvety tannins, bright red fruit flavors, full bodied, and complex. Many of the grower’s attribute Suisun Valley’s rich deep soil and climate to its stunning production of this grape. Petite Sirah is taken very seriously in Suisun Valley. Whether vineyard growers are trying new and improved spacing or

pruning techniques or choosing to dry farm or adjusting their drip irrigation schedule, they are always honing their craft when growing this bold grape. Wine does start in the vineyard as they say.

Once the grapes are off the vine the winemakers have the exciting opportunity to allow the fruit and wine to flourish. Since Petite Sirah from Suisun boasts such soft tannins, winemakers can allow the wine to show itself, no need for them to put in an excessive amount work, aging, or additions. Many of the winemakers in the valley feel that Petite Sirah outshines Cabernet Sauvignon. The consumer is finally catching on to Suisun Valley's best kept secret and they are loving their discovery. Whether a winemaker who is purchasing grapes for their winery or a wine consumer enjoying Suisun Valley Petite Sirah at a local steak house, Petite Sirah is only starting to gain traction.

To learn more about Petite Sirah and Suisun Valley visit [Suisun Valley Petite Sirah - YouTube](#) to hear Suisun Valley grape growers and winemakers discuss their beloved Petite Sirah.

Sustainability

The California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance was created to promote high standards and sustainable practices for wine growing across California. Suisun Valley is home to many vineyards that are Certified California Green and abide by the rules and guidelines set by the CSWA. Suisun Valley is a community full of people who are constantly bettering their vineyard and winemaking practices to be more sustainable and innovative. For more information about the CSWA and what it entails please visit [California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance](#).

Key Facts about Suisun Valley

28+ Wine Grape Varieties Grown

12 Small Intimate Wineries

- Wooden Valley Winery
- Tolenas Winery
- Tenbrink Family Winery
- Caymus-Suisun
- Black Smith Cellars
- Sunset Cellars
- King Andrews Vineyards
- Mangels Vineyards
- GV Cellars
- Galvan Family Cellars
- Rock Creek Vineyard
- Back Road Vines
- Suisun Creek Winery

80% Family Owned

3,000+ Acres Planted of Wine Grapes

Certified California Green Vineyards