



*Jeff Runquist Wines*

## The Vineyards



Jeff Runquist Wines does not own vineyards. The winery purchases their entire needs from growers, providing the flexibility to pursue varieties and flavors that would not otherwise be compatible to a single estate. Jeff takes great pride in the relationships he has with his growers; the vineyard is designated and the grower is identified on every label. Jeff says, "I have my favorites and like to work with growers that are as passionate about their vineyards as I am about my wines."



### Massoni Ranch, Amador County—Zinfandel

It is difficult to pinpoint the exact beginnings of viticulture on the Massoni Ranch, but the discovery of a bill of sale for grapes in 1905 has led most to speculate that the first grapes were planted sometime in the late 1890s.

Amador County has the distinction of being the only county in California that increased its acreage under grapes during prohibition. More recently, the Massoni Ranch was part of the original vineyard holdings of the Montevina Winery. In the 1980's, the Massoni Ranch, including Pioneer Hill, was sold to independent growers, Jim and Sue Fox. Jeff has known Jim and Sue since their purchase of the Massoni Ranch.

Head trained and spur pruned, the Zinfandel vineyard yields limited quantities of intensely flavored wine. The grapes are not shaded by a dense trellis - supported canopy and so they soak up the foothill sunshine and yield skins with a deep blue black color. The vineyard is dry farmed, meaning it is not irrigated. The vine's roots search the depths of the decomposed granite soil for moisture that was provided by the previous winter's rains.



### Dick Cooper Vineyards, Amador County—Barbera

The Cooper Family has been growing walnuts, prunes and grapes for generations in Amador County. Just off of Shenandoah Schoolhouse Road is their original Barbera vineyard. It was planted in the early 1980's. Like the Zinfandel, these vines are head trained and spur pruned.

The limited yield attains great color and flavor. The vineyard is on a small knoll and Dick allows Jeff to select the portion of the vineyard he is to receive each fall.



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Enver Salman Vineyard, Clarksburg—Petite Sirah

Located in the heart of the Sacramento River Delta, on Sutter Island, Enver Salman grows some of the finest Petite Sirah Jeff has had the pleasure to make wine from. Enver is a conscientious grower, and Petite Sirah is a risky variety that, if rained on, “melts”. Enver, however, realizes the added flavor ripe fruit produces and provides Jeff with fully -ripened , deeply-colored, and intensely-flavored grapes. In 2000, Jeff selected 480 gallons to be aged in selected barrels . The result was, as Jeff puts it, "The most unique wine I have ever produced. Unique is not always good, but this wine was so tasty that I had to bottle it separately." The rest is history.



Estrella River Plateau, Paso Robles—Syrah

Syrah is one of only two offerings from Jeff Runquist Wines that comes from a combination of vineyards. For six years in the early 1990s, Jeff made the wines for J. Lohr, and there, he discovered the strikingly similarity between the Syrah wines produced from Paso Robles and the Syrachs produced from the McLaren Vale region of Australia. That discovery drew him to Paso Robles to source the fruit for his Syrah. “This big, concentrated, bold style of Syrah is very attractive to me ,and so despite the opportunity to make Syrah from other appellations, I choose to return to Paso Robles for this variety”.

The fruit comes from three sources; Steve Carter’s Three Way Vineyard, grower Dan Westigard, and grower Bob Goodwin. All three vineyards are located on the Estrella River Plain, where the thin soils, warm climate, and cool nights help tame the vigorous nature of this grape variety. The resulting wines have deep flavors and good concentration.

Other designated vineyards play an important role in the overall varietal offerings from Jeff Runquist Wines. SilvaSpoons Vineyards in Lodi, River Oaks Vineyards in Lodi, Colina Poca Vineyard in Paso Robles, Sisters Vineyard in Carnernos, Napa Valley, and Rancho Sarco Vineyard in Napa Valley are all important long-term vineyard relationships and sources of high-quality fruit for Jeff Runquist Wines.

Producers of Vineyard Designated Red Table Wines