

## MERRIAM ESTATE VINEYARDS BORDEAUX-STYLE WINES FROM THE EDGE OF THE RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY



Pursuing their dream of a French-style vineyard in the United States, Peter and Diana Merriam set their sites on the Russian River Valley, where their fascination for France is now translated through the cultivation of their own vineyards and wines using French grape varieties. They began their search for the perfect vineyard site in 1995. As proprietor of a New England wine shop, Peter understood the importance of cultivating a vineyard with pedigree. With the expertise of Richard Thomas, one of the foremost viticulturists and educators in Sonoma County, and lifelong friend and wine specialist Tom Simoneau, the Merriams found Windacre Vineyard and later Los Amigos Vineyard.

### Windacre Vineyard

One of the oldest vineyards in Sonoma County, Windacre rests on a glacial riverbed, a distinctive history that is the foundation of its pedigree. This unique geography results in varied soil composition, which translates into complexity in the Merriam Vineyard estate wines. On the northeastern edge of the Russian River Valley, Windacre lies in the warmest corner of the appellation, where neighboring wineries are world-renowned for zinfandel, syrah, petite sirah, and other sturdy red wine varieties. Windacre Vineyard is perfectly suited to grow exquisite merlot and other Bordeaux grape varieties, with a climate strikingly similar to the Bordeaux region in France. The unique terroir of this location positions the 11-acre estate Merriam Windacre Vineyard, and the recently planted estate Los Amigos Vineyard, on the warmest edge of Russian River Valley winegrowing region.

Although Merriam's Windacre Vineyard was originally planted in the 1890s, it wasn't until the 1980s that the unique qualities of the property were considered for Bordeaux varietal wines, and merlot was planted. Since acquiring Windacre in 2000, Peter Merriam has taken the first step in creating blends with true vineyard character by complementing the merlot with plantings of cabernet franc, petit verdot, and cabernet sauvignon.

Windacre Vineyard has approximately six different clones, between petit verdot, cabernet franc, cabernet sauvignon, and merlot, and two different merlot and cabernet sauvignon rootstocks. These variations are determined by the soil compositions of each individual microclimate within the vineyard. The Merriam Vineyard Bordeaux blend will be among the few California blends sourced 100% from a single vineyard site. In other words, the true blending of the Merriam estate wines begins in the estate Windacre Vineyard.