

FLORA SPRINGS

NAPA VALLEY

RUTHERFORD AVA, NAPA VALLEY

Komes Ranch

THE VINEYARD

The 20-acre Komes Ranch estate vineyard sits on one of the Rutherford AVA's three alluvial fans, tucked up in the far northwestern corner of the appellation. Towering above the ranch is the Mayacamas Mountain range, and the site backs up to a forest of oaks and redwoods which hosts coyotes, deer, wild turkeys, jack rabbits and the occasional mountain lion.

Bisected by a small, seasonal creek, the Komes Ranch is immediately adjacent to John Komes' home and has been in our family since 1977. First planted to vines in 1978, recent improvements to the site include a redesign of its blocks to reflect the three distinct soil types to be found there. Installing drainage tiles, undertaking soil renewal and amendments, fine tuning irrigation applications and instituting gentler pruning techniques are some of the enhancements that are demonstrated in the character and purity of fruit from this vineyard.

YEAR PLANTED: 1978, with replants in 1990, 2002 and 2020

SOILS: Block A: Pleasanton Loam; Block E: Perkins Gravelly Loam; Block P: Forward Silt Loam

CLONE: Cabernet Sauvignon Clone 4; Petit Verdot Clone 02

WINES: Trilogy, Wild Boar

RUTHERFORD AVA

Although the Rutherford AVA encompasses just six square miles, it has a worldwide reputation as one of Napa Valley's finest growing regions. The appellation has that rare and serendipitous combination of climate, soils and topography ideal for growing high quality wine grapes, particularly Cabernet Sauvignon.

Established in 1993, the Rutherford AVA sits in the heart of Napa Valley, located between the Oakville AVA to the south and the St. Helena AVA to the north. It encompasses one of the widest parts of the valley, stretching from the lower slopes of the Vaca Mountain range on the east side to the slopes of the Mayacamas Mountains to the west. During the growing season the climate in Rutherford is similar to its neighboring AVAs, with sunny days and warm temperatures that give way to significantly cooler evenings and nights. This dramatic diurnal variation is perfect for Cabernet; the fruit ripens during the day but then essentially rests at night, allowing the grapes to retain acidity and structure.

Rutherford is also distinguished by the complexity of its soils, with distinct differences between the valley floor and the western and eastern slopes. The valley floor has older, finer, alluvial soils, while the slopes feature younger, rockier soils made of volcanic and sedimentary material. All of the soils are low fertility and well-drained, and therefore suitable for grape growing.