



CHARLES CREEK
V I N E Y A R D

Press Kit

For Wine Writers, Reporters, and Reviews

- Internet
- Magazines
- Newspapers
- Radio
- Television



CHARLES CREEK

VINEYARD

WINERY INFORMATION

19201 Sonoma Highway # 402 (mail only)
Sonoma, CA 95476

E-mail: bill@charlescreek.com (Proprietor)
gerry@charlescreek.com (Proprietor)
kirsten@charlescreek.com (National Sales Manager)
kerry@charlescreek.com (Winemaker)
alan@charlescreek.com (Tasting Room Sales)

BONDED WINERY: 5664

Phone: (707) 996-6622
Fax: (707) 935-7065
Web: <http://www.charlescreek.com>

TASTING ROOM & ART GALLERY

483 1st Street West
Sonoma, CA 95476
(707) 935-3848

PROPRIETORS | PRINCIPALS

Proprietor – William W. Brinton
Proprietor – Geraldine Brinton
National Sales Manager – Kirsten Rames
Winemaker – Kerry Damskey
Tasting Room & Art Gallery Manager – Alan Wastell

HISTORY

Founded January 2002 after successful years of growing wine grapes on Sonoma Mountain in Glen Ellen, the Brinton Family decided to create their own brand, Charles Creek Vineyard.

DISTRIBUTION

Arizona, California, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, and Texas

VINEYARDS SOURCES

Hyde Vineyards ~ Carneros | Napa
Mountain Terraces Vineyard ~ Sonoma Valley
Sangiaco Vineyards ~ Carneros | Sonoma
Stage Coach Vineyard ~ Napa Valley

WINES

2005 En Casa Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley
2005 Guillermo M. Sonoma Mountain-Sonoma Valley - Brinton Vineyard Merlot
2008 La Sorpresa Chardonnay - Sonoma County
2006 La Sonrisa Del Tecolote Cabernet Sauvignon - Napa Valley
2005 La Vista Stagecoach Vineyard - Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon
2008 Las Patolitas Chardonnay - Sonoma County
2005 Las Pasiones Sonoma Valley Cabernet Sauvignon
2006 Merlot, Napa Valley
2006 Muy Bonito, A Syrah Blend - Napa County
2009 Pinot Grigio - Mendocino County
2008 Riesling - El Dorado County
2009 Saralee Vineyard Chardonnay - Russian River Valley/ Sonoma County
2007 Tempranillo - Lake County-Tejada Vineyard
2008 Rosé - Napa Valley
La Bomba Chocolate Dessert Wine
La Bomba Chocolate Raspberry Dessert Wine



CHARLES CREEK

V I N E Y A R D

William Wiman Brinton **Proprietor**

Bill Brinton resides in Sonoma, but his roots are deep in the Midwest. Midwesterners are known for strong American values, respect for family and institutions, and the ability to create and recognize value in products.

Bill is a direct descendent of a true pioneer, John Deere. His direct family was at the helm of Deere until its recent transition to a public company. Deere created the self-scouring steel plow, an invention that revolutionized the agricultural world. It is this spirit of innovation and tradition that Bill brings to the company he founded, Charles Creek Vineyard. Charles Creek is named after his son Charley and his grandfather, Charles Deere Wiman.

In 1993, Bill, a graduate of the Columbia University MBA program, established a natural products and nutritional beverage firm, The Wiman Beverage Company. This company was sold to a larger firm in 2000.

Bill enjoys vineyard selection and development, as well as the critical evaluation and blending of the juice from grapes into wine. The wines are styled to pair wonderfully with a wide variety of fresh foods, and his vision is to create wines that could be sold for \$40 to \$50 per bottle, but that provide an exceptional value in the \$20 to \$25 price range. Value and integrity are the cornerstones of Midwestern values, and the basis upon which Charles Creek Vineyard was founded.



CHARLES CREEK

VINEYARD

Geraldine Brinton

Proprietor

Gerry has always had a very strong connection with the land.

Born and raised in Dubuque, Iowa, Gerry spent many mornings picking raspberries outside her kitchen door, and many afternoons helping her grandmother weed the vegetable garden, picking currants, gooseberries, apples and even grapes as they ripened into the fall.

Gerry was educated in North Carolina at Duke University and Boston and settled in San Francisco with her husband, Bill. However, the lure of a more rural lifestyle brought them to Sonoma County to set up as an alternative location in which to foster the same respect and love for the land, and the values it promotes, in their two young sons. Over the years, their garden in Sonoma provided more and more harvests for their table. As their boys grew up and moved away, Gerry & Bill found they could shift their primary focus to their Sonoma home. That same garden is the basis of many a delicious and healthful meal that is complemented by the wines of Charles Creek Vineyard.

Somewhere along the way it occurred to them to follow the lead of many others, and plant their property to vine. The success of early harvests spurred them on to expand that part of their dream to produce exceptional wine at a reasonable price. Gerry has worked in many capacities over the years, CPA, management consultant, property manager, principal in a fresh juice company, and volunteer director for a major medical center. Her goal has always been to work on projects that she believes in: ones that she can ethically and whole-heartedly support. The latest of these, Charles Creek Vineyard, meets these criteria. The best fruit from the best land, well cared for and handled properly, can yield wonderful wines, and that is the goal of this part of the adventure.



CHARLES CREEK

V I N E Y A R D

Kerry Damskey **Winemaker**

Internationally recognized winemaker Kerry Damskey has 25 years of winemaking experience, spanning four continents. He has spent his career gaining a better understanding of the entire ecology of wine, including the impact of climate, soil, sun exposure, and temperature on the grape growing and winemaking processes. Damskey brings both expertise and perspective to Charles Creek Vineyard. Like Andre Tchelistcheff, who Damskey worked with in the early 1970s, Kerry also believes that wine is made in the vineyards; furthermore, it is a winemaker's responsibility to artistically deliver what that terroir brings forth.

Graduated from U.C. Davis in 1976, with a B.S. degree in fermentation science, Damskey is also a graduate of an intense, small business program at Stanford University School of Business, and is a candidate of the Institute of the Masters of Wine.

In his early winemaking career, Damskey served as a wine judge for many wine competitions. "This experience," says Kerry, "helped me to define what's great about a wine and what's not, what has style and what doesn't. Then, I took that understanding into the vineyards. Being able to understand the flavors of viticulture's regional styles helped me to create expressive, stylist wines for each region that I've worked with."

Damskey talents have been twice honored with a "Sweepstake Awards" in the Sonoma County Wine Competition; additionally, Damskey has received numerous other "Best of Class" and "Gold" medals for his wines, many of which have been achieved for Charles Creek Vineyard wines.



CHARLES CREEK
VINEYARD

Award Winning Wines

SOLD OUT
2005 *En Casa Grenache*
San Luis Obispo

GOLD MEDAL ~ BEST OF CLASS
2007 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition

2005 *En Casa Syrah*
Napa Valley

GOLD MEDAL
2007 Grand Harvest Awards

2009 *Las Patolitas Chardonnay*
Sonoma County

DOUBLE GOLD MEDAL - 98 POINTS

BEST OF CLASS - BEST OF CA
2011 California State Fair Wine Competition

GOLD MEDAL
2011 West Coast Wine Competition

2008 *Las Patolitas Chardonnay*
Sonoma County

GOLD MEDAL ~ 94 POINTS
2010 California State Fair

GOLD MEDAL
2011 International Wine Competition
Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo

SOLD OUT
2007 *Las Patolitas Chardonnay*
Sonoma County

GOLD MEDAL ~ BEST OF CLASS
2009 Pacific Rim International Wine Competition

GOLD MEDAL ~ CLASS CHAMPION
2010 International Wine Competition
at Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo

GOLD MEDAL
2009 Sonoma County Harvest Fair
2010 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition

SOLD OUT
2005 *La Sorpresa del Tecolote*
Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley

GOLD MEDAL
2008 Los Angeles International Wine & Spirits Competition

2008 *La Sorpresa Chardonnay*
Sonoma/Carneros Sangiacomo Vineyard

GOLD MEDAL
2011 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition

2005 *La Vista Cabernet Sauvignon*
Stagecoach Vineyard Napa Valley

CLASS CHAMPION & DOUBLE GOLD
2008 Houston National Wine Competition and Rodeo

94 POINTS
The Wine Enthusiast - June 2009

SOLD OUT
2004 *La Vista Cabernet Sauvignon*
Stagecoach Vineyard Napa Valley

GOLD MEDAL
2007 Grand Harvest Awards
2008 Houston National Wine Competition and Rodeo

95 POINTS
The Wine Enthusiast - June 2008

SOLD OUT
2007 *Malbec*
Alexander Valley
East Soda Rock Vineyard

GOLD MEDAL ~ BEST OF CLASS
2009 Sonoma County Harvest Fair
2009 Los Angeles International Wine & Spirits Competition
2010 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition

GOLD MEDAL ~ JUDGES CHOICE
2010 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition

GOLD MEDAL
2009 Orange County Fair
2009 California State Fair Wine Competition

2006 *Merlot*
Napa Valley

GOLD MEDAL
2011 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition

SOLD OUT
2005 *Miradeto*
Cabernet Sauvignon & Merlot Blend
Sonoma County

GOLD MEDAL
2008 San Francisco Chronicle Competition
2008 Grand Harvest Awards
2008 Los Angeles International Wine & Spirits Competition

SOLD OUT
2004 *Miradeto*
Cabernet Sauvignon & Merlot Blend
Sonoma County

GOLD MEDAL
2007 San Francisco Chronicle Competition



CHARLES CREEK
VINEYARD

Award Winning Wines

SOLD OUT
2003 *Miradero*
Cabernet Sauvignon & Merlot Blend
Sonoma County

GOLD MEDAL

2006 SAVOR Wine Magazine "North of the Gate"
Wine Competition

2006 San Francisco International Wine Competition
2006 Hilton Head Island Wine Festival
2006 West Coast Wine Competition

2006 *Muy Bonito*
A Syrah Blend

GOLD MEDAL

2009 Pacific Rim International Wine Competition

BEST OF CLASS, NAPA APPELLATIONS - 91 POINTS
2010 California State Fair

SOLD OUT
2004 *Muy Bonito*
A Blend of Syrah, Merlot,
Cabernet Sauvignon, and Grenache

BEST OF CLASS ~ DOUBLE GOLD - 98 POINTS
2008 California State Fair

GOLD MEDAL

2009 Los Angeles International Wine & Spirits Competition

SOLD OUT
2007 *En Casa Pinot Grigio*
California

CHAMPION & GOLD MEDAL
2007 International Wine Competition
at Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo

2005 *Las Pasiones Cabernet Sauvignon*
Sonoma Valley

GOLD MEDAL ~ BEST OF CLASS

2008 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition

GOLD MEDAL

2008 Dallas Morning News Wine Competition
2008 Grand Harvest Awards

2004 *Pasatiempo Merlot*
Sangiaco Vineyard, Sonoma County Carneros

DOUBLE GOLD MEDAL

2007 West Coast Wine Competition

GOLD MEDAL ~ BEST OF CLASS

2007 Sonoma County Harvest Fair

89 POINTS - HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

California Grapevine - May 2008

91 POINTS

The Wine Enthusiast - July 2008

SOLD OUT
2005 *Punta Mita Merlot*
Napa Valley Carneros Hyde Vineyard

GOLD MEDAL

2008 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition

90 POINTS - VERY HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

California Grapevine - May 2008

90 POINTS

The Wine Enthusiast - July 2008

2007 *Sangiovese*
Alexander Valley / Sonoma County

GOLD MEDAL ~ BEST OF CLASS

2009 West Coast Wine Competition

2009 Pacific Rim International Wine Competition

GOLD MEDAL

2009 Los Angeles International Wine & Spirits Competition

2009 *Saralee's Vineyard Chardonnay*
Russian River Valley / Sonoma County

DOUBLE GOLD MEDAL

2011 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition



CHARLES CREEK

VINEYARD

Vineyard

1 Hyde Vineyards, Carneros / Napa

Characteristics

Located in the Carneros Region of Napa between Highway 12 and Old Sonoma Road, this is a relatively warm region, because it is further from the cool fog and wind of San Francisco Bay. It also has good elevation above sea level making the soils lighter in clay with better drainage.
Merlot and Chardonnay

Producers

Paul Hobbs, Kistler, Ramey, Patz & Hall

2 Sangiacomo Vineyards, Carneros / Sonoma

Located in the Carneros region of Sonoma and consistently celebrated for so many award-winning wines. Soils are gravelly, riparian clay loam, characteristic of finer vineyards in Carneros region. Breezy, cool conditions from San Pablo Bay, make this an ideal growing area for cool climate grapes like Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, and certain Merlot clones. **Chardonnay and Merlot**

Ravenswood, Flowers, Merryvale, Steele, Gundlach Bundschu, Chateau Souverain, Whitehall Lane, Carmenet, Saintsbury, Bouchaine, Rombauer, Mantanzas Creek

3 Mountain Terraces Vineyard, Sonoma Valley

Located near the Napa County border, this Sonoma Valley property is situated atop the Mayacamas Mountain Range, just south of Mount Veeder, at an elevation of 1800 feet. Because of its mountainous conditions, the site yields very small, intensely flavored fruit of exceptional quality and character.
Cabernet Sauvignon

Arrowood, Pahlmeyer, Ledson, Kunde, Gundlach Bundschu

4 Stagecoach Vineyard, Napa Valley

The over six-hundred thousand vines are planted among rock and chaparral encompassing an area in excess of twelve hundred acres. Stagecoach vineyard adjoins the Oakville appellation at an elevation of nine hundred feet and climb above Oakville, rising to over seventeen hundred feet. The metamorphosis of scrub brush into vineyards of distinctive Napa Valley terroir has garnered both admiration and a prestigious list of client wineries.
Cabernet Sauvignon

Miner, Honig, Verasion, Stonehedge, Rutherford Hill, Erich Russell Conn Creek, Paul Hobbs, Pepi, Selby, Ruston, Rutherford Ranch

19201 Sonoma Highway # 402 ~ Sonoma CA 95476

Tel: (707) 996-6622 ~ Fax: (707) 935-7065 info@charlescreek.com ~ www.charlescreek.com