



“Uniquely Qualified...”

**Sky Pine Vineyards
31955 Pine Mountain Road
Cloverdale, CA 95425**

Vineyard Information

Cabernet Sauvignon:

The Cabernet Sauvignon Vineyards blocks were carved out of the steep hillsides in 1999, with the vines planted March 2000. Five distinct blocks were created, each with its own distinct personality. Considerable time and expense were invested into extensive drainage and erosion control measures due to the hillside nature of these blocks. The Cabernet Sauvignon vineyards were planted using clone number 7 on 110R rootstock, with a 6 by 10 spacing. Vertical shoot positioning and bilateral cordons are used as the canopy management system. The fruit from each block is unique and when blended has entered the market in the bottle price point of \$30 plus. There are currently 8 acres of Cabernet Sauvignon now with the grafting over of 2 acres of the north half merlot block.

The five blocks are:

Block 1:

Gun barrel Block: 1.8 acres on steep, south facing slope, composed of shallow rocky soil, with rows running north-south in direction.

Block 2:

C'est la Vie Block: 1 acre of an amphitheater like bowl, south facing, with east-west rows, in moist heavier soils.

Block 3:

Rock Pile Block: 2 acres of rock, rock and more rock, south facing, with east-west rows,

Block 4:

Hayfield Block: .75 acre of steep, deep dark soil, western facing, with east-west rows.

Block 5:

On top Block: .25 acre of north-south rows planted in fraction able sandstone and shale, on top of a knoll overlooking C'est la Vie Block.

Cabernet Franc:

1 acre with 2 separate blocks were planted in 2001 using 6 by 9 spacing. The 'Meadows Block' uses 110R rootstock with clone 4, in deep soils, in a southern exposed flat meadow, with rows running north-south. The 'Steep Block' uses 3309 rootstock and clone number 5, planted in crusty shale on a north facing slope, with rows running north-south. The vines in these blocks are using a vertical head prune type trellis method, where the vine trunk is supported by a 5 foot steel stake and pruning allows 4-6 canes to grow out from the trunk creating an umbrella like shaped plant. The effort here is to reduce yield and increase intensity of the fruit.

Merlot

The two merlot blocks of six acres total, were planted in 1995, using 3309 rootstock and clone number 1 merlot. The spacing is 8 by 10, with a row orientation running east to west, allowing the prevailing northwesterlies to blow down the rows. There is good southern exposure with full sunlight on the whole vineyard from sunrise until sunset. Vertical shoot positioning is the trellis type, with bilateral cordons supporting an average of 9 shoots per cordon arm. Soils are thicker sandy to loamy, with rolling contours, and good drainage. The fruit matures evenly over the entire 6 acres and on average yielding 4 tons an acre. The fruit has been rated 'classic plus' and has successfully been crafted into wine with a bottle price point over \$20. In 2008, the first 22 rows of the north half were prepared for and grafted over to Cabernet Sauvignon, using bud wood from our Hay Field Block of cab. This makes for 4 acres of merlot.

Petite Verdot and Malbec and Additional Cabernet Franc

In 2004, what was a steep ravine, covered with brush, was developed into the newest block of vineyard. After considerable time and expense, complying with Sonoma County environmental ordinances, engineering and site preparation, the Canyon was planted in Spring of 2006. In this block, 5 by 9 spacing was utilized This type of spacing allowed about 1600 plants in this area. As a perspective, this puts 928 plants an acre, while our Merlot is spaced at 545 plants per acre.

The Canyon is its own unique micro soil and climate area. Surprisingly, the soil is quite deep here, having washed down from the over arching hillsides over the last ten thousand years. It also has the sheltered effect of being below the rim, and out of the normal breeze which washes down across the Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon blocks.

Cabernet Franc: 4/332 on 110R rootstock, 800 plants.

Malbec: 4 on 100R, 560 plants.

Petite Verdot: 400 on 110R, 240 plants.

Water: 100 g.p.m. private well. Services home, vineyard and winery.

Sustainable Winegrowing Practices:

SkyPine Vineyards subscribe to the Code of Sustainable Winegrowing which incorporates environmentally sound, economically feasible and socially equitable principles into grape growing. There is an emphasis on maintaining balanced vines and uniformity throughout the vineyard, using canopy management and monitoring regimens. Soil and nutrient management are constantly monitored with emphasis on the prevention of soil erosion with a no till policy and mow only program of vine row cover crops. Special winterization programs are installed and monitored daily during the rainy season with up to 60 inches of rain during November to April of each year. Large buffers zones along natural drainage areas have been reseeded and planted with trees to prevent siltration and runoff. Water management practices including soil moisture and canopy monitoring has allowed reduced annual irrigation usage by up to 30%, through efficient drip irrigation and fertigation. Pest management emphasizes frequent canopy monitoring for mildew, leafhoppers, and mites, using the minimum chemical intervention rates and products as possible. With leaf removal, shoot positioning, cover cropping and road surface maintenance, disease pressure is kept to a minimum.

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707-537-8989**

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