



POPE VALLEY WINERY

A Century-Old Treasure

Sometimes, the best a destination has to offer can't be found in your Frommer's guide. High above the heavily-trafficked Napa Valley floor and hundreds of pretentious, monotonous wineries, sits a century-old treasure: Pope Valley Winery.

This scenic road less traveled, draped with vineyards and offering panoramic views of the picturesque Napa Valley, leads you northeast of the Silverado Trail and back in time to 40 quaint, country acres. Here, the Burgundy Wine and Olive Oil Factory was founded in 1897, a three-story gravitational winery that shipped wine by train to Al Capone's Chicago speakeasies during Prohibition. A century later, it was purchased by the Eakle family, long-time Pope Valley Residents, and given new life.

The winery no longer sells to gangsters, but not too much else has changed. Pope Valley Winery's mark of authenticity is signed and sealed with the nineteenth century farming equipment, hand dug cave and original blacksmith shop, farmhouse and wagon shed, all still on the property.

In 2009, siblings David Eakle as winemaker and Diana Eakle Hawkins as general manager, took hold of the reins with the goal of bringing Pope Valley Winery to the next level of quality, distinction and recognition. They hand-craft 5,000 cases of fine wines a year, among them the Estate Reserve Cab and Merlot Eakle Ranch, which both won Best in Class for their 2010 vintages at the San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition. They're known for their Cabernet Sauvignon, Zinfandel Port, and a very rare Old Vine Chenin Blanc, and produce Sangiovese Rosé, Sauvignon Blanc and Zinfandel as well.

Visitors – who are welcomed like old friends – can embark on one-of-a-kind tours of the historic grounds and through the cave, which took nine long years to dig. A variety of tasting options include custom wine flights, picnics, a private view of the vineyards from their 1897 Lounge and a Brunch & Bubbles Experience for the early birds. Wine Club members can even get away for a night with a stay in the original farmhouse, sipping wine under a bright sky completely blanketed in stars.

No need for frills, extravagance or even paved roads. The only bells and whistles you'll find here is literally on old ringing bell on a big oak tree. Pope Valley Winery prides itself in staying true to its historic, Old Napa roots, while making fine wines that can compete with the best of the New Age Valley below.

POPE VALLEY WINERY

Open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

6613 Pope Valley Road, Pope Valley, CA 94567

(707) 965-1246 | www.popevalleywinery.com

