

Diamond Series



Spring Mountain Vineyard

Even though its history can be traced back to the late 19th century, Napa Valley's prestigious Spring Mountain Vineyard is generally considered a comparative newcomer to the ranks of Napa's more celebrated wineries.

Spring Mountain lies in the Mayacamas range and its ridge is lower than Bald Mountain to the south and Diamond Mountain to the north. This gap allows cool, moist air to enter the Napa Valley and spill down over the vineyards planted on the slopes of Spring Mountain. Located just north of the storied town of St. Helena; the vines of the modern entity have been producing superior fruit for uncountable decades.

In 1882, the iconic Beringer Brothers first planted vines on these hilly slopes that are now part of Spring Mountain Vineyards 845-acre Domaine.

The modern Spring Mountain Vineyard was founded in 1993, when Swiss financier Jacob E. Safra purchased the original land and buildings from the bankruptcy of the entity known as Spring Mountain Vineyards, which had begun its operations in the late 1960s.

Two years later, Safra was able to purchase a pair of contiguous vineyards that almost doubled the size of Spring Mountain. In 1996, he added another wonderful adjacent parcel of 435 acres that dated from 1873 and renamed the vineyard, La Perla (the pearl) due to its marvelous fruit and the fact that the site was the first cabernet sauvignon ever planted on Spring Mountain.

Jacob Safra, now in his late fifties, is an ardent international

wine collector whose favorite wines are mostly Bordeaux. In Spring Mountain Vineyard, he visualized an opportunity to produce a world class Bordeaux wine from the mountain that was known locally as "Cabernet Mountain."

"It's all about the location of Spring Mountain Vineyard," explained Valli Ferrell, director of public relations for the winery. "Our vineyards sit just above the fog line and therefore get the helpful morning sun that the lower elevations have to wait on. This effect produces excellent residual acidity and supple tannins. It also makes for bright wines that show well when young, yet possess the correct characteristics to age marvelously."

To be sure, everything at Spring Mountain Vineyard has been redone in a grand style as befitting on of the world's great up and coming wineries. Over 225 acres of the estate are planted to vine, creating 135 separate hillside vineyard blocks each with its own unique soil, exposure, and microclimate. The vineyard is planted in densities of 4,000 vines per acre and trained to the ancient gobelet form, a vertical trellising method that was invented in an earlier millennium by the Romans.

The three ghost wineries that inhabit Spring Mountain Vineyard have been restored and extensive digging has produced new caves that extend the original tunnels developed centuries earlier.

A pair of wine industry professionals runs the Spring Mountain Vineyard operation for offsite owner Safra. Jac Cole serves as winemaker and Ron Rosenbrand functions as vineyard manager.



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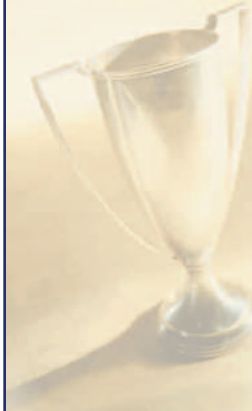
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Jac Cole

Together, the pair makes most of the decisions affecting the winery. Owner Jacob Safra sits in on all sessions where the final blending is decided. Cole and Rosenbrand consider themselves to have a unique relationship in the wine industry. They form a working team that is closely knit and one that believes that great wines begin with great dirt, in this case, fabled Spring Mountain.

Accolades and Tasting Notes



94-Points, *Wine and Spirits* magazine — “My first notes on the wine were all about the structure: its refinement, balance and harmony. And when a wine leads with complete integration, it’s bound to be good. Slowly, over the course of day, this wine opens to a spiciness in the tannin, like black pure tea. The fruit remains tight, black as plum skin, but generous in its depth and texture. It all hangs together in a supple whole, to cellar for ten years or more.”

91-Points, *Wine Spectator* weekly — “A rich, smooth and seductive style that starts out with flashy, toasty, smoky oak and leads to a ripe, slightly hot and intense Cabernet Blend. Layers of currant and blackberry fruit firm up on the finish, with a surge of tannins.”

Best of the Best Cabernet Sauvignon, 5-Stars (out of five) *Quarterly Wine Review* — “Remarkable character and quality.”

Top Pick of Spring Mountain District Wines, *The Washington Post* — “A marvel of complexity and integration, the wine explodes with gorgeous, ripe berry fruit accented with notes of wood smoke and vanilla. Packed with flavor, but soft and smooth in texture.”

Reorder

Elivette, the name for Spring Mountain’s Reserve wine, is the ultimate viticultural and artistic expression of this exquisite winery. Jac Cole, Spring Mountain’s celebrated winemaker, believes the 2001 Elivette Reserve to be the greatest wine ever produced at the winery, eclipsing even the top ranked Spring Mountain 97 Reserve. “The growing season in 2001 was, dare we say, as close to perfect as it gets,” states Cole, “this vintage gave us wines of exceptional depth, power and concentration with rich, dark flavors that linger on the palate to finish with style and polish. 2001 is a banner year for Spring Mountain Vineyard and the Elivette set the standard.” The 2001 Elivette Reserve Proprietary Red was created by blending wines from 110 blocks within the estate’s three contiguous vineyards. A masterfully crafted Bordeaux blend of 89% Cabernet Sauvignon with 8% Merlot and 3% Petit Verdot. Aged for 21 months in French oak. Enjoy now until 2015.

Winery Direct: \$90.00

Diamond Series Price:
3 bottles-\$83.00 / bottle
6 bottles-\$81.00 / bottle
12 bottles-\$79.00 / bottle
(Plus shipping)

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