



OUR ESTATE VINEYARDS & WINEMAKING

Round Pond Estate lies in the heart of Rutherford, California, home to some of the world's most highly acclaimed Cabernet Sauvignon. The MacDonnell family has owned and farmed vineyards here since 1983, growing grapes for several of Rutherford's renowned vintners. In 2002, they released the inaugural vintage of their own Round Pond Estate Cabernet Sauvignon, and today they produce *Gravel Series*, RESERVE, PROPRIETARY, RUTHERFORD and KITH & KIN tiers under the Round Pond Estate label in their beautiful winery, built in 2007.

VINEYARDS



Round Pond Estate includes 372 planted vineyard acres that span their Rutherford (362 acres) and Oakville Bench (10 acres) properties.

RUTHERFORD VINEYARD: The Rutherford estate is nestled between Napa River to the east and Conn Creek to the west. Over the past century, those waterways have snaked through this property and left gravel deposits, as well as more sedimentary, richer soils towards the Napa River. In the richer soils we planted the Sauvignon Blanc & Cabernet Sauvignon destined for the Kith & Kin blend. In the gravelly areas toward the eastern section in the vineyards, we've planted the Cabernet Sauvignon, and its accompanied varietals, for the Rutherford and Reserve Blends.

On the far north eastern and south eastern sections of our Rutherford Estate, and throughout our tiny Oakville site, we've located micro-sites with extremely gravelly streaks running through certain blocks. The vines located within the gravel streaks struggle intensely and we farm these areas for our Gravel Series. Yielding super intense wines, with incredibly dense, round tannin structure, and deep complex aromatics.

OAKVILLE VINEYARD: Our Oakville Bench vineyard is located just north of Yountville in the Oakville AVA. It is a hidden oasis and historic vineyard that sits at the base of the Mayacamas Mountain Range and is one of Napa Valley's earliest planted vineyards. This site is 100% Cabernet Sauvignon and is neighbored by acclaimed vineyards and wineries including To Kalon, Beckstoffer's Missouri Hopper, Martha's Vineyard, and Harlan. The site's wonderfully gravelly earth, well-drained soils, sloping grade and mature vines produce a wine of complexity, nuance, elegance and femininity.

VINEYARD MANAGEMENT: Temperatures here are warm, developing fruit of intense varietal character. Because the warm climate and rich soils result in exceptional vine health, the vineyard team limits shoots to two clusters each and carefully manages canopies for a good ratio of sunlight to shade. Advanced technology helps monitor irrigation, and hand-harvest ensures that only the finest fruit makes it to the winery. Vineyard blocks are planted predominantly to Cabernet Sauvignon, Sauvignon Blanc and Merlot, but also include Petite Syrah, Petit Verdot, Malbec, Sangiovese, Nebbiolo, Viognier and Syrah.

The vineyard team selects from a range of organic and sustainable approaches, including composting, fostering positive plant-soil interactions, planting native cover crops for natural pest control and erosion control, and much more. Beyond the vineyard, Round Pond Estate works closely with the Rutherford Dust Society to restore the portion of the Napa River that borders the property. They work to reduce the effects of flooding and disease, preserving the habitat of native fish and birds.

W I N E M A K I N G



“The initial goal behind making our own wines at Round Pond Estate was to fully understand the relationship between superior winegrowing and wine quality,” says owner Miles MacDonnell. “Today, that relationship guides our philosophy. This is extraordinary terroir, and we take care of it with meticulous attention to each vineyard block. Minimal intervention in the winery allows the purity of our estate to shine through in every bottle.”

Round Pond Estate crafts Cabernet Sauvignon and Sauvignon Blanc wines in contemporary Napa Valley style—wines that combine early approachability with terrific aging potential. The Round Pond Estate tier offers unique expression of the Rutherford valley floor interpreted through the particular circumstances of the growing season. The winemaking team thinks of the Estate tier as ‘mirror’ wines, reflecting the pulse of the vintage. They choose the vineyard blocks as if from a bird’s eye view and end up blending wines from among some of the most diverse soils throughout the estate. If the Estate tier acts as a mirror, then the Reserve tier calls to mind a magnifying glass. For these wines, Round Pond zooms in on vineyard blocks that are particularly expressive of their singular soils and conditions, blocks that stand apart from the rest of the estate. These bold Reserve wines often require up to a year of additional aging. A third tier, Round Pond Kith & Kin, displays Rutherford heart in a fun and flirty style. “I like to call our Kith & Kin wines great Wednesday-night wines,” says Miles. “Their balanced acidity and easy approachability make them perfect for mid-week pizza and other everyday fare.” Visitors to the estate and wine club members may sample an additional tier of very limited-production wines, including a California-style Nebbiolo crafted in honor of founder Bob MacDonnell, a longtime enthusiast of Italian varietals.

Each block of the diverse Round Pond Estate has been carefully studied for its potential; as a result, over the past 30 years the grapes have been sought out by some of the finest wineries around, including Vineyard 29, J Davies, Palmaz, Robert Craig, Bressler and many more. This long winegrowing history and thorough understanding of terroir informs every contemporary winemaking decision behind Round Pond Estate wines. Grapes are harvested row by row at peak ripeness, then handsorted and destemmed before gentle cold soak and press. Extended maceration maximizes the extraction of rich color, aroma and flavor. In addition to these artisan techniques, custom-built fermenters continuously regulate temperature to within a fraction of a degree. Barrel aging in the finest French oak in a variety of toasts and sizes adds layers of depth and nuance. Throughout this process, right up until blending, each vineyard block is kept separate, allowing the winemaker to work with the purest estate expressions.