

Sierra Foothills and Lodi, CALIFORNIA



California's Sierra Foothills was identified as an AVA in 1987, but it's been recognized as a prominent and respectable winemaking region since the Gold Rush era of the mid-19th century. And the Kautz family, who settled near the Sierra Foothills in Lodi in 1926, had a lot to do with building the reputation of both areas.

Frederick and Marie Kautz came to America from Germany, buying farmland in Lodi which they began farming in 1940. Their son, John, switched to grape-growing in 1968, and quickly built an excellent reputation as a premium grape supplier. In 1988, John and his wife Gail, along with their children, Stephen, Kurt, Joan and Jack, built a state-of-the-art winery and entertainment facility in the town of Murphys, the heart of the Gold Rush era, producing their first vintage in 1989. They followed this purchase with Bear Creek, one of the oldest continuously running wineries in Lodi, in 1997.

Their vineyard holdings grew exponentially over the next 30 years, to 7,000 acres in both the Sierra Foothills and Lodi. The Kautz family were even the first to plant Chardonnay grapes in the region. And since their inception, they've committed to sustainable viticultural practices, ensuring the utmost respect is paid to the environment. In fact, John was the first to instigate an integrated pest management system in Lodi, which many in the region still follow today.

Ironstone's location in Calaveras County, affectionately known as the "Queen of the Sierras," boasts mineral-rich, volcanic terroir, ideal for growing the wide range of varieties that run the gamut, from Chenin Blanc to Zinfandel.

SCORE HIGHLIGHTS

Ironstone Sauvignon Blanc 2022 90 Pts. Tasting Panel

Ironstone Chardonnay 2021 90Pts. Tasting Panel

Ironstone Cabernet Sauvignon 2019 'Best Buy' Wine & Spirits

Ironstone Petite Sirah

2021 92 Pts. James Suckling

2016 91 Pts. Wine Enthusiast

2017 95 Pts. L.A. Intl. Wine Competition









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In 1926, the Kautz family began farming in the Lodi region and in 1948, John Kautz Farms was founded. In 1990, after many successful years of growing wine grapes, the family completed the Ironstone Winery. Ironstone Winery is a modern replica of an 1859 Gold Stamp Mill complete with tasting room, gourmet delicatessen, wine aging cavern, conference and wedding facilities, outdoor Amphitheater and 14.5 acres of landscaped gardens. The Heritage Museum and Jewelry Shoppe contains artifacts from the gold rush era, as well as the largest specimen of Crystalline Gold Leaf - a 44 lb. treasure. The family philosophy of winemaking is that quality wine grapes, a touch of artistry and patience create captivating elegant wines.

SCORE HIGHLIGHTS

Ironstone Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 2019

Ironstone Reserve Cabernet Franc
Ironstone Reserve Old Vine Zinfandel 2019

93 Pts. 'Best Buy' One of the Year's Best Cab - Wine & Spirits 2019 92 Pts. Wine Enthusiast 90 Pts. Wine Enthusiast



