

SAINTSBURY TIMELINE

1977~David Graves and Richard Ward meet in a brewing class at U.C Davis.

1978~David and Dick are housemates working the Napa Valley harvest at Chappellet and Stag's Leap Wine Cellars.

1981~Saintsbury Winery is founded and produces its first wines in borrowed space at Pine Ridge Winery-1000 cases of Chardonnay and 2000 cases of Pinot Noir.

1982~First wines released-Chardonnay (\$7.50) and Rancho Carneros Pinot Noir (\$8). Production rises to 7,500 cases. First wine to be labeled with the "Carneros" appellation is produced.

1983~Ground broken on winery facility in June with completion in December. First employee hired: Bill Knuttel, later named winemaker. Production rises to 10,500 cases.

1984~First "Garnet" Pinot Noir released, appropriately named by Dick (1983 Vintage).

1985~Byron Kosuge hired as Assistant Winemaker. First bottling line purchased.

1986~First estate vineyard (13 acres) planted with attention given to carrying out rootstock (no A x R1) and clonal experiments.

1987~First "Reserve" Chardonnay Released (1985 vintage). Wine Spectator's James Laube does feature article on Saintsbury. Production rises to 28,000 cases.

1988~ Cellar expanded with dedicated bottling area. First wine exported by Saintsbury.

1989~All Pinot Noirs from this vintage forward bottled without filtration.

1990~First "Vin Gris" released (1989 Vintage). Brown Ranch property acquired.

1991~Second estate vineyard planted in Carneros (11 acres).

1992~Brown Ranch planted using predominantly Dijon clones, the largest planting of Dijon 667 and 777 in California at the time. First "Reserve" Pinot Noir released (1990 Vintage).

1993~Robert Parker dubs the 1990 Reserve Pinot Noir, "unquestionably one of the finest Pinot Noirs I have tasted from California."

1994~Decision taken to stop filtering of Chardonnay, slight haze from ML bacteria taken as a badge of honor.

1995~Brown Ranch grapes begin to see significant use in Reserve Pinot Noir.

1996~First vintage of Brown Ranch Pinot Noir produced. Byron Kosuge promoted to Winemaker as Bill Knuttel leaves after fourteen years to take job at Chalk Hill.

1997~Wine Spectator names 1995 Reserve Chardonnay winner in top California Chardonnay vs. White Burgundy taste-off.

1998~Open-top fermenters installed in the winery with an eye toward developing batches of wine with a more fruit forward character.

1999~Saintsbury called, "the best of the Carneros-based wineries" in Stephen Brooks comprehensive book, "The Wines of California".

2002~First vintage of Brown Ranch Chardonnay produced. Winery production tops out at 60,000 cases. New technology (cross-flow filter @ \$100,000 a copy) allows filtration without the impacts of traditional filters. This combats sporadic *Brettanomyces* bloom in bottle.

2003~Wall Street Journal calls Saintsbury, America's "most consistent producer of Pinot Noir." Vin Gris labeled as "Code Pink" in a lighthearted response to the Homeland Security Department's more serious color-coded alert system.

2004~Jerome Chery is hired as winemaker. Jerome trained in Dijon and spent 7 years in Napa Valley most recently as Associate Winemaker at Littorai for four years. Saintsbury Pinot Noir named the Most Popular Pinot Noir in Wine & Spirits Magazine's Annual Restaurant Poll. 2002 Carneros Chardonnay named as Best American Chardonnay \$20 and under by FOOD & WINE magazine.



SAINTSBURY