

HARLAN ESTATE

From the beginning, the vision behind Harlan Estate has been to produce a “First Growth” of California. And yet, what the Harlan family and their team aspire to goes well beyond the vineyard and the cellar. Their true “philosophical heartbeat” is to enrich people's lives. Throughout history, art has played an essential role in humanity’s enrichment. They consider their endeavor in wine as the “art of man and nature”, as fine wine provides a common language that captivates the emotions as well as the intellect and can transport us to a place and time.

Founded in 1984, Harlan Estate is a winegrowing estate in the western hills of Oakville, California – in the heart of the Napa Valley. Consisting of 240 acres (97 ha) of natural splendor set above the fabled Oakville benchlands (Oakville AVA), the estate, covering 40 acres (17 ha) of vineyard, rises in elevation from 225 to 1225 feet (68 to 374 m) above sea level.

Carved from steep, densely wooded hillsides, the estate is predominantly east-facing, but the undulating topography affords nearly 360 degrees of exposition, providing a more varied mesoclimate than is normally found in the Napa Valley.

The 40 acres (17 ha) of vineyard are planted to the following varieties: Cabernet Sauvignon (75%), Cabernet Franc (9%), Merlot (14%) and Petit Verdot (2%).

The vines – planted between 1985 and the early 1990’s - in the eastern blocks are planted in the residual sediments (typically less than one to two feet thick) atop volcanic bedrock, including fractured flow rock and volcanic tuff. The vines in the western blocks grow mostly in older, residual sediments that have developed from Great Valley sequence (of oceanic origin) bedrock.

Harlan Estate is a Cabernet Sauvignon based blend. Whole-berry fermentations from indigenous yeasts in small oak up-rights help provide a gentle extraction. The free-run wine is then brought by gravity into barrels for the malolactic fermentation. The wine, once fermented, will spend about 24 to 28 months in French oak barrels (balanced between old and new) before being bottled, unfined and unfiltered, at the estate.

The production of Harlan Estate averages 2,000 cases annually.

- First commercial vintage: 1990, released in 1996
- Second label: The Maiden (800 cases annually)