

Goldeneye

ANDERSON VALLEY

gold•en•eye \gōl'dən-ī\ *n.* (ca. 1678): Either of two diving ducks (*Bucephala clangula* or *B. islandica*) of northern regions, having a short black bill, a rounded head, and yellow eyes.

an•der•son val•ley \ān'dər-sən vāl'ē\ *n.*: Cool California wine region and AVA (American Viticultural Area) on the western slope of the coastal mountain range, 80 miles north of San Francisco in Mendocino County.

pi•not noir \pē-'nō-'nwär\ *n.*: A dry red wine produced from the same grape as French Burgundy.

Goldeneye \gōl'dən-ī\ *n.* (1996): The Goldeneye winery is dedicated to the production of world-class Pinot Noir wines. It is located in the heart of Anderson Valley along the migratory pathway of the common Goldeneye duck.

Timeline

1990 – Dan and Margaret Duckhorn started developing a passion for Pinot Noir in 1990. Their maturing palates began to desire a softer style of wine to complement the Bordeaux varietals that Duckhorn Vineyards had been producing since 1978.

1993 – Our first effort, a 1990 Pinot Noir, was released in 1993 under Duckhorn Vineyards' Decoy label. The grapes for this wine came from the Russian River appellation, one of the many growing regions we explored in our pursuit.

1996 – After six years of experimentation, we narrowed our focus to the Anderson Valley appellation. The region's proximity to the coast creates a climate distinguished by low-lying morning fog that evolves into long, mildly cool days that make the location ideal for planting Pinot Noir. In 1996, we purchased an 80-acre ranch in the Anderson Valley that included a small winery and vineyard. We christened the brand and the winery *Goldeneye*. During the next year we did more research, this time on various clones of Pinot Noir, to determine which selections to plant in our own estate vineyard, which we named *Confluence*.

1997 – Our first vines went in the soil in the spring of 1997, bringing us to a modest 12 acres of estate vineyards. Committed to the careful growth of our estate program, we began a long-term search for other ideal vineyard sites. In the fall it was time for our first harvest; we picked 7 tons of estate fruit from our Confluence ranch, resulting in 375 cases of handcrafted wine.

1998 – We continued to explore the various microclimates and terroir that co-exist in Anderson Valley. In our search, we discovered a 20-acre hillside apple and pear orchard that would fit perfectly into our growing portfolio. We purchased the property in 1998. We also harvested our second crop of 27 tons, resulting in 1,046 cases of wine.

2000 – After a decade of planning, research, and experimentation, we announced our first Goldeneye release in March 2000. We were pleased by the enthusiastic response from consumers, press, and trade. Our excitement for this project continued to build as we acquired our third ranch, a 70-acre parcel that increased our potential long-term production to 15,000 cases.

2001 – As of this date, Goldeneye had three vineyard estates established throughout the Anderson Valley, with 150 producing vine acres and 19 different clones with 11 rootstocks of Pinot Noir.

2003 – We purchased a 52-acre hillside parcel, known as the former Floodgate Vineyard, mainly planted with mature Pinot Noir vines; the Pinot Noir wines from this vineyard have great pedigree. We now have almost 150 producing vine acres in Anderson Valley.

2008 – The Split Rail Vineyard became a part of our estate portfolio. Located on the bank of the Navarro River, and surrounded by oak and fir tree forests, this picturesque vineyard is influenced by morning fog and a cool mid-valley location.

2016 and Beyond – In keeping with Goldeneye's small-lot ethos, we harvest, vinify, and barrel age each block separately to allow winemaker Katey Larwood freedom and flexibility as he creates a final blend of the lots. Dedicated to crafting a sophisticated wine that reflects the Anderson Valley's natural elegance and serene sense of place, Katey artfully blends this rich palette of fruit to make the best possible wine. As we meticulously move toward the self sufficiency of our estate program, our Anderson Valley vineyard portfolio continues to evolve.

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