



BENOVIA

*Letting the wine
speak its poetry*

Our First Release



We are very excited . . .

to announce the first release of wines from Benovia Winery.

Benovia Winery was created out of the epiphany that comes with that first great bottle of wine. In that moment, you begin to know wine as something beyond just a beverage to drink with meals. Wine can become a transcendent experience that can leave you with a profound sense of respect for the vines and the winemaker that creates such experiences. All in all, at this moment, many of us became enthralled with the many and unique expressions that wine can become in its ever evolving life. Some of us even get the urge to create it ourselves.

At Benovia, we focus on making the finest possible expression of Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Zinfandel. We carefully listen and strive to understand the terroir that encapsulates each vineyard. This “listening” takes time, and what is communicated from each vineyard is different and specific to that vineyard. Mike Sullivan, our winemaker, uses this knowledge to treat each bin of grapes with the respect and unique care necessary to transform them into extraordinary wine.

We offer our first release of wines with the hope that you will enjoy them as much as we do.

THE BENOVIA NAME

Joe and Mary wanted to honor the memory of their fathers. Joe's father, Novian, was a decorated tank officer in World War II and a civil servant. Mary's father, Ben, was a pacifist farmer. The synthesis of their names is Benovia and we hope it captures their diverse backgrounds and strengths. In addition, *Bene* is the Latin derivative of *good*—a fitting tribute to these fine men and our goal as custodians of the land.



JOE
ANDERSON

MIKE
SULLIVAN

MARY
DEWANE

BOB
MOSBY



The people at Benovia

JOE ANDERSON & MARY DEWANE PROPRIETORS (*Husband & Wife*)

are fulfilling a vision of farming remarkable vineyards and producing extraordinary wines. Their dream came true after years of visits to the wine country when they purchased the picturesque Cohn vineyard in the rolling hills and redwood forests above the Russian River. They knew this special place was capable of growing remarkable Pinot Noir and Zinfandel. After farming the vineyard and selling the grapes for several years, they wanted to take the next logical step and produce their own wines. In 2005, Joe and Mary purchased a prime Pinot Noir vineyard with an existing winery in the heart of the Russian River AVA. Their goal is simple; make the finest expression of wine from each site. Joe is Chairman and CEO of Schaller Anderson, Inc. in Phoenix, Arizona. Mary is a Vice-President of Business Development at Schaller Anderson.

MIKE SULLIVAN WINEMAKER

has lived in Sonoma County all of his life. He attended Fresno State, earning a degree in fermentation science. He has worked for several wineries in his 18 years in the wine business, most recently, Hartford Court. At Hartford, he won many awards including being named “Wine Personality of the Year” by Robert Parker and “Winemaker of the Year” by Ronn Wiegand of the magazine *Restaurant Wine*. Mike won the sweepstakes award for both his Chardonnay and Pinot Noir at the Sonoma County Harvest Fair. He is the only winemaker ever to win the sweepstakes award for both a red and white wine. Robert Parker has said of Mike, “I’m a big fan of winemaker Mike Sullivan as he seems to have the brilliant ability to convert Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Zinfandel into wines of considerable character and individuality.”

BOB MOSBY GENERAL MANAGER

had his first great wine on a trip to Europe in 1969. He graduated with a Ph.D. from the University of Texas and practiced psychology in Phoenix, Arizona for 34 years. The love of wine was always there for him—he helped create the Society for the Appreciation of Fine Wine in 1990 and was the president for 15 years. In 1989, he began helping Williams Selyem at crush and helped each year thereafter, until they sold the winery in 1998. He then helped Margi Williams at Brogan Cellars until 2005. Bob also worked as a business coach with a group of business owners and there met Joe Anderson. When Joe decided to purchase the winery, it was just the right time for Bob to start that long awaited second career in wine.



Our current released wines

Our focus at Benovia is primarily on Pinot Noir, with special attention paid to Chardonnay and Zinfandel. It is thus somewhat odd for us to have as our first release of wines a Rose of Pinot Noir and a Zinfandel.

While we did produce a small amount of Pinot Noir in 2005, we decided not to release it. Although the wine is very good, we just felt it was not quite up to our high standards. It is somehow missing that special character we want in all of our wines.

2005 RUSSIAN RIVER ZINFANDEL

Planted in 1975, this hillside vineyard is planted on a steep and rocky slope on one of our estate vineyards at the northern end of Russian River Valley. We dry-farm these gnarled vines to produce small and compact clusters with incredible fruit intensity and bright acidity.

The 2005 vintage was characterized by a very long cool growing season and produced Zinfandels with an inky/purple color, an elegant-tannic structure and vibrant acidity. This wine exhibits lively aromas of boysenberry syrup and vine-ripened blackberries followed by Provencal herbs and fresh-cracked white pepper. This powerhouse Zinfandel has enormous richness and a tremendously long finish.

Only 193 cases produced.

2006 ROSE OF PINOT NOIR

As the weather warms up and the bright golden Daphadils announce the coming of spring—why not celebrate with a glass of Rose? We love to drink rose!

A long cool growing season provided the raw materials to produce a wonderful Rose. Produced from our estate, Cohn Vineyard, and a small ranch in Green Valley, this Pinot Noir Rose captures the vibrant red fruits and floral tones that are hallmarks of Russian River Pinot Noir. This very expressive Rose is reminiscent of spring flowers, wild strawberries and the mineral-laden rocks of a mountain stream.

104 cases produced.

*Zinfandel
Pinot noir
Chardonnay*



The wines of 2006 vintage

RELEASED IN EARLY
SPRING & FALL '08

The wines from the 2006 vintage offer great promise. The expertise of our winemaker Mike Sullivan shows in every wine. Although final blends have not been completed at this time, Mike sees the promise of excellence in all of the raw materials. The following wines will be released in early spring and fall of 2008.

2006 PINOT NOIR SONOMA COAST

A composition of exceptional, small-block Pinot Noir vineyards. Aromas of red raspberry, sour cherry and toasted nutmeg are followed by flavors of black cherry, cinnamon and allspice. The wine's juicy mouthfeel is supported by centered acidity, fine grain tannins and an intensely complex finish.

2006 PROPRIETARY BLEND PINOT NOIR RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

As a winemaker, you dream of an opportunity to create a wine from scratch that utilizes your

ability and imagination—this is that wine.

2006 PINOT NOIR SAVOY VINEYARD ANDERSON VALLEY

This hillside vineyard in the Anderson Valley is farmed meticulously by Richard Savoy. With an aromatic profile that is dark and complex offering blackberry, mineral and orange peel notes. This massively structured wine will be the slowest to evolve, and will offer great reward with 6-8 years of patience.

2006 PINOT NOIR COHN VINEYARD

Our premier release of the Cohn Vineyard, from vines planted in 1975 and a yield of 1.25 tons-per-acre. We are pleased to have captured the exceptional personality of this site; dominated by intense black cherry and raspberry aromas followed by layer after layer of spice. The wine has an ethereally-floral

aromatic quality with fine tannins and a long complex finish.

2006 CHARDONNAY 'LE POMMERAIE' VINEYARD RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

This single vineyard Chardonnay, is planted at a very high density of 2420 vines per acre. Meticulous farming and an incredible terrior create a wine with enormous aromatic complexity and flavors of candied lemon and baked pear flavors.

2006 ZINFANDEL RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

Planted on a steep and rocky slope, these gnarled old dry-farmed vines produce small and compact clusters with incredible fruit intensity and bright acidity. Lively aromas of vine-ripened blackberries are followed by Provencal herbs and fresh-cracked white pepper.



Our location in the Russian River Valley

The winery is located in the heart of the Russian River Valley, tucked among the vineyards along Piner Road. From the winery, we see rolling vineyards to the south, east and west with mountains in the distance. Our neighbor to the north is a horse farm.

The beauty of the Russian River Valley shines through here loud and clear. We have 13.5 acres of vineyards at this site all planted to Pinot Noir. Benovia also has the Cohn vineyard located just off Westside Road. This vineyard is 6.5 acres of 35-year-old Pinot

Noir and 8.5 acres of 35-year-old Zinfandel. The grapes from the Cohn vineyard were previously sold in the '90s to Williams Selyem and most recently to Kosta Browne winery. We are excited to have such great fruit.





Acquiring our wines

Most of the wines sold by Benovia Winery will be through our customer mailing list. You can sign up for this list by going to our website, www.benoviawinery.com. You can also call us at the winery, 707-526-4441 or

write to us at 3339 Hartman Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95401.

Some of our wines will be available in fine restaurants and in a few well-known wine stores.

The best way to assure yourself that you will be able to buy wine each year is to sign up for our mailing list.

Vineyard Hideaway

At Benovia Winery, we have the perfect setting for your wine country vacation. Discover the joy of sipping wine while looking over prized Russian River Valley vineyards. Enjoy the inviting, relaxing and warm ambience of our winery cottage. Feel your

stress melt away while sitting in our hot tub spa under the stars, or start your day there.

You will love the peaceful, country feel of our location and yet the cottage has easy, five-minute access to famous restaurants and wineries.



Russian River



BENOVIA

Winery

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(SOME PHOTOGRAPHY BY ELISA CICINELLI)