



HIGH VALLEY AVA

On the elevated ridges and flanks of the Mayacamas Mountains to the west and the Vaca Range to the east, Lake County's 9,454 acres of vineyards ring one of the oldest geological lakes in North America. Under cobalt blue skies that boast the purest air in California, 180 growers cultivate vines in an astounding array of soils, from rocky volcanic highlands to mountain valleys lined with gravelly river courses.

Lake County's intensity of place — climate, soils, and sunlight — produces grapes and wine of compelling quality and character.



OVERVIEW

Appropriately named, this area's high hanging valley ringed with steep volcanic hillsides produces mountain fruit with great color and structure.

TOPOGRAPHY

Situated above the northeast shores of Clear Lake in Lake County, this distinct growing area is defined by steep mountain ridges rising up to 3,000 feet directly from this hanging valley's floor at 1,700 feet. Approximately nine miles long and three miles wide, this rare east-west transverse in the Californian coastal range was created by volcanic activity of Round Mountain.

ELEVATION

Vineyard elevations range from 1,700 to 2,400 feet.

Higher elevations and Lake County's pure air allow for greater levels of UV light, as much as 10% more than neighboring sea level valleys. This extra UV triggers thicker grape skins, greater tannins, and intense wines with high phenolic levels.

SOILS

The distinct watershed boundaries of this region determine that soils found within the High Valley area are derived only from parent material found within the basin. Brick-red volcanic cinders and pumice-like gravel and stones allow for superior drainage. The western edge and middle of High Valley are composed of gravelly loams created from eroded Franciscan shales.

CLIMATE

Elevation along with the cooling effects of Clear Lake create a natural and perpetual "wind machine." During July and August, daily temperature swings of 50 degrees are not uncommon. This intense cooling effect promotes good acidity, improved tannic structure, darker color, and more concentrated fruit character.

ACREAGE

977 acres

VARIETALS

Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Grenache, Malbec, Merlot, Mourvedre, Petite Sirah, Petite Verdot, Pinot Noir, Syrah, Tempranillo, Zinfandel.