



RED HILLS, LAKE COUNTY 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

Dramatic high elevation volcanic hillsides producing intense mountain fruit with great color and structure.

TOPOGRAPHY

Located in the northern Mayacamas Mountains, the Red Hills of Lake County frame the southwest edge of Clear Lake. Comprised of dozens of volcanic hills ranging from 1,350 to over 3,700 feet above sea level, the appellation lies right over the North Coast Magma Pocket. As a result, the Red Hills are the latest formation of the volcanic and tectonic processes that created many of the famous hillside regions of the North Coast.

ELEVATION

Vineyard elevations range from 1,350 to 3,000 feet with the majority of the AVA's acreage planted at or over 2,000 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 UV triggers thicker grape skins, greater tannins, and intense wines with high phenolic content.

SOILS

Volcanic origin from neighboring Mount Konocti, producing well-drained vineyards rich in black obsidian, quartz crystals and volcanic gravel content, and strikingly red in color. Three general soil types predominate: Glenview-Bottlerock- Arrowhead, Konocti-Benridge, and Collayomi-Aiken.

CLIMATE

With vineyards starting at 1,350 feet and reaching up to 3,000 feet above sea level, Red Hills of Lake County grapes are grown in mountain climate conditions.

Upper level airflows from the Pacific Ocean combine with many local convections to moderate daytime highs. Low relative humidity and varied topography permit quick radiative cooling of ridgetop vineyards in the late afternoon and evenings. Both factors allow for good acid retention during ripening.

Cold winters and dry summer conditions are an important factor in Lake County's reduced pesticide and other application rates, one of the lowest in California.

ACREAGE

3,250 acres

VARIETALS

Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Petite Sirah, Sauvignon Blanc, Syrah, Zinfandel.