



**RODNEY STRONG**  
VINEYARDS



**OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU**

Rodney Strong is a historic Sonoma County winery established in 1959 and proudly owned by the Klein family. We manage fourteen estate vineyards with an eye towards conserving and protecting the environment through certified sustainable farming methods.

Led by Tom Klein, a fourth generation California farmer, Rodney Strong world class wines are 100% Sonoma County Appellation and have been critically acclaimed vintage after vintage. Our winemaking team, led by Rick Sayre, head winemaker for over 35 years, wine consultant, Dave Ramey and winemakers, Greg Morthole and Justin Seidenfeld are zealous about delivering only the best quality wine.

**PLACE MATTERS. SONOMA COUNTY**

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**INTRODUCING RESERVE MALBEC**

The diverse influences of cool Pacific Coast breezes, volcanic soil and mountainous terrain, all contribute to the ideal growing conditions for this new Reserve Malbec. This hand-crafted wine captures the style and flavor profile of the finest Malbec.

*"We are proud to lead the way with our Reserve Malbec, another world class wine from our estate vineyards in Sonoma County."*

*Tom Klein, Proprietor*



# RESERVE *Malbec*



Bavarian Lion Vineyard, Knights Valley

Rodney Strong Reserve Malbec is hand-crafted in our artisan winery from our uniquely situated Sonoma County vineyards.

## WHY RODNEY STRONG MALBEC?

Rodney Strong Vineyards, one of the top growers of Malbec in Sonoma County, has been producing Malbec since 2003. With decades of growing experience in Sonoma's hillside and high-elevation vineyards, in addition with estate vineyards that possess the ideal climate, elevation and volcanic soil conditions for this Bordeaux varietal, Rodney Strong is positioned to be the leader in the region for Malbec. The new small lot Reserve Malbec, crafted in our Artisan Cellar, is a beautiful example of what Malbec can be.

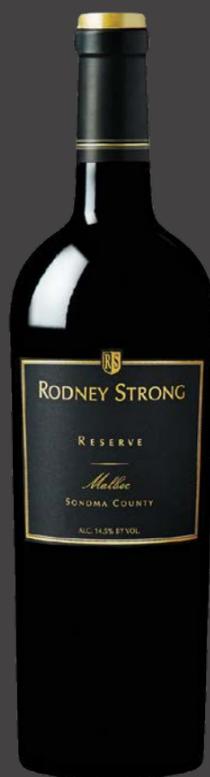
## SONOMA COUNTY VINEYARDS IDEAL FOR MALBEC

Malbec grows best on hillsides and at high altitudes, where hot days and cool nights allow the fruit to mature perfectly to encourage just the right levels of acidity and complexity. We hand craft the Reserve Malbec from four of our Estate vineyards throughout Sonoma County, ensuring each vintage is the best we have to offer.

Cooley Ranch Vineyard Sky High Block, at 2,040 feet on steep terrain, provides beautifully ripened fruit and balanced acidity. Brothers and Rockaway Vineyards in Alexander Valley are both ideal for Cabernet Sauvignon and Malbec with their high elevation and afternoon sun. Knights Valley Bavarian Lion Vineyard, considered benchland with its higher elevation than other AVAs, allows for full maturation of fruit.

The winemaking team of Rick Sayre, Greg Morthole and Justin Seidenfeld along with wine consultant David Ramey, use state of the art cluster sorting and berry picking, selecting the best Malbec of the season from these vineyards. At the sophisticated Artisan Cellar the hands-on care assures an optimal selection of fruit that is fermented separately, by vineyard, in small lots. Only lots that display depth, richness, intensity and age worthiness are considered for the Reserve Malbec. The blend is then assembled, and the wine is returned to barrels to integrate and age in oak barrels for an additional 18 to 24 months.

The Reserve Malbec is rich and bold, deep with lush blackberries, plum, crushed violets and espresso on the long finish, a perfect balance of big juicy fruit and elegant tannins.



## MALBEC HISTORY

Malbec originated near the town of Cahors in the Lot River Valley of Southwestern France, where it is known as Côt Noir.

It was created by crossing two French varieties from Montpellier and Gaillac.

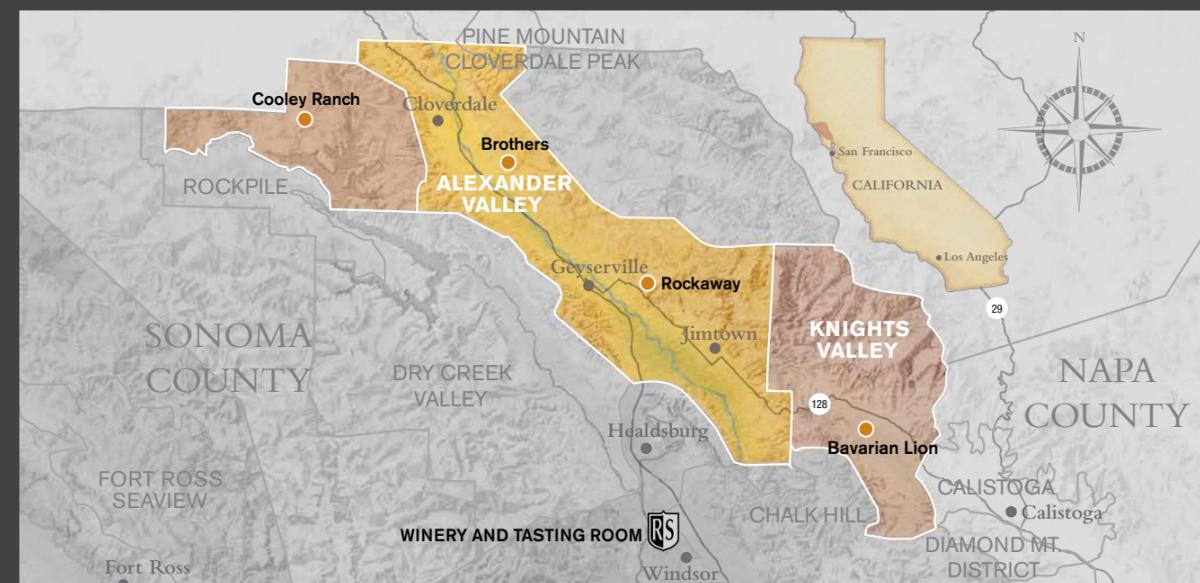
The name "Malbec" is attributed to a French doctor who may have introduced the vine to Bordeaux.

Malbec became common as a blending grape in France but never surfaced as a top French variety.

Winemaker Charles Lefranc first brought Malbec from France to California's Santa Clara Valley in 1858.

Malbec was first planted in Mendoza, Argentina in 1868 by a French botanist. It is now Argentina's signature varietal.

Argentina produces around 75% of Malbec grown worldwide. The United States is the third largest producer, with 3,400 acres planted in California, Washington and Oregon.



## RODNEY STRONG MALBEC VINEYARDS

### COOLEY RANCH, Sonoma County | Malbec Acreage – 40 Acres

Located in northern Sonoma County, Cooley Ranch is one of our highest elevation vineyards and we grow Malbec at the highest peak, Block One Sky High. Located at 2,040 feet above sea level, we see moderate yield and a cool growing season that warms up during harvest leading to beautifully ripened Malbec.

### BROTHERS, Alexander Valley | Malbec Acreage – 15 Acres

Our Brothers vineyard is in the hills of southeast Cloverdale. Located at 1,000 feet above sea level as our highest part of Brothers Vineyard, the elevation leads to a cooler growing season and warm harvest. Planted on eastside vineyards, our Malbec benefits from afternoon sun leading to ideal ripeness.

### ROCKAWAY, Alexander Valley | Malbec Acreage – 8 Acres

Our Rockaway Vineyard has the longest history of Malbec with 12 vintages. Given how well Cabernet Sauvignon thrives in Rockaway, our winegrowing team knew Malbec would be a natural fit for this vineyard. This low yielding, high elevation site leads to Malbec rich in flavor that is ripened by the afternoon sun.

### BAVARIAN LION, Knights Valley | Malbec Acreage – 11.5 Acres

The Bavarian Lion Vineyard in Knights Valley is known for its well drained soils which leads to great growing conditions for Bordeaux varietals — specifically Cabernet Sauvignon and Malbec. Knights Valley is considered benchland as it is higher in elevation than other AVAs, leading to perfect conditions for Malbec which thrives with elevation.

Brothers Vineyard, Alexander Valley

