



Barboursville Vineyards

The First Vineyard in Virginia Dedicated to European Grape Varieties.

Barboursville Vineyards is Virginia's first wine estate to be dedicated to growing European, *vitis vinifera* wine varieties in Virginia. Planted in 1976, the vineyard was founded and continues to be owned by Gianni Zonin from Gambellara, Italy, who is a 7th-generation winegrower whose family's enterprise, Casa Vinicola Zonin, has been in viticulture since 1821.

Barboursville is Zonin's sole winemaking endeavor outside of Italy. The property is the core of an extensive 18th Century Virginia plantation, now consisting of some 900 acres, of which 162 are in vine. Winemaker-General Manager Luca Paschina, holder of a degree in oenology from Instituto Umberto in Alba and now in his 21st year at Barboursville, oversees day-to-day vineyard operations with viticulturist Fernando Franco, who has been at Barboursville for 13 years.

What drew Gianni Zonin to Virginia for his sole estate outside of Italy? What sustained his determination? Through many start-up years of trial and error, against headwinds of national surprise and skepticism toward the non-existent wine region, and even cultural resistances in local traditions, he persevered.

It was the acknowledgement of Virginia's excellent terroir.

Situated on the broad, rolling plateau and foothills of the Southwest Mountains in the Virginia Piedmont, running parallel with the Blue Ridge to the west, our 900 acres occupy soils of varying mixes of clay and alluvial calcareous deposits, with sloping exposures of even greater variety. In the temperate mid-Atlantic weather of our growing region, this estate presents the viticulturist with a dynamic mosaic of growing conditions.

The resulting engagement with the vines is exceptionally active and verifies the truism that the human hand, learned, seasoned, and schooled by many previous vintages, must be incorporated in any conception of "terroir."

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