



# Green & Red Vineyards

A Napa Valley Zinfandel Pioneer. Instrumental to the Chiles Valley AVA.

Jay Hemmingway had tasted plenty of Cabernet Sauvignon based wines by the early 1970's but it was several Zinfandels that caught his attention. He tried two late 1960's vintages of Zinfandel – impressive wines that helped persuade him to move to the Napa area; one was from at that time the newly reborn Mayacamas Winery and the other was from Sutter Home (using purchased fruit from the Deaver Vineyard in Amador County).

Today the majority of Green & Red's vineyards are planted to Zinfandel with additional varieties being Sauvignon Blanc, Petite Sirah and Syrah. Green & Red does not make a Cabernet Sauvignon. Jay planted his first Zinfandel vines in 1972 – on their own rootstock. Ultimately these first vines were infected with phylloxera requiring a full replant to phylloxera resistant rootstock. One vine however survived – the one that was planted on a resistant rootstock – and continues to produce, some 45+ years later. Initially Jay made home wine from his fruit and sold grapes to other producers including Cuvaision and to Philip Togni.


The vineyards range in elevation from 900 to 1800 feet and are planted in very red soils which are veined with serpentine deposits. Because of this elevation spread fog sometimes is a moderating influence on the lower vineyards as it rolls up the canyon. Compared to the Napa Valley Chiles Canyon has remained fairly unchanged. Airline miles, its not that far from the actual valley floor, but narrow winding roads, the steep canyon and its eastern location help ensure that this part of Napa has and will remain fairly undeveloped.

Jay was a pioneer grape grower in this part of Napa – he was one of the first of the “modern” growers to move into the area (grapes were grown in nearby Chiles Valley dating back to the 1870's). He was instrumental in securing an American Viticultural Area (AVA) for this region in 1999, called Chiles Valley. His upper most vineyard at 1,800 feet is the highest vineyard in Chiles Valley.

Green & Red is the only winery in Chiles Canyon; the property is 200 acres of which about 31 are planted to vines distinguished between three unique vineyards – all at different elevations and exposures; Chiles Mill, Tip Top and Catacula. This is a very terroir driven winery even down to the name; the green reflects the greenish serpentine in their soils and the red is reflective of the reddish iron rich soils (decomposed chert material). Some of the nearby hills that surround their vineyards are extremely red. In person, these reddish hills dominate above the vineyard and are among the reddest hills we have seen in Napa County.

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