

# Volker Eisele Family Estate

## United States - California

Volker Eisele Family Estate creates enticing wines from the Chiles Valley District of the Napa Valley. Organically farmed since 1974, the vineyard reflects the passion of the Eisele Family's commitment to grow exceptional grapes and to produce elegant estate wines.

### VINEYARD

Volker Eisele Family Estate is situated in the Chiles Valley District, a sub-appellation of the Napa Valley American Viticultural Area. Cloaked in frequent Pacific fog, and with elevations of 600-1200 feet, the Chiles Valley District is one of the cooler areas of the Napa Valley resulting in a long growing season. The valley's perfect cabernet climate enhances the development of wines with subtle flavors, full body, and overall complexity.

The Estate's sixty acres of vineyard grow at elevations of 900 to 1100 feet on east, west and south facing slopes as well as on the valley floor. Soils vary from clay-loam to shale. After purchase of the vineyard property, the Eisele's began an extensive redevelopment and restoration of both the vineyard acreage and the riparian corridors. Presently 72% of the vineyard is planted in Cabernet Sauvignon, 12.5% Merlot, 10.5% Cabernet Franc, 3% Semillon and 2% Sauvignon Blanc. Seven different Cabernet clones have been incorporated to provide diversity of flavor.

Since 1974 the Eisele's have enriched the vineyard soils through use of organic farming practices. No herbicides, pesticides or chemical fertilizers have been used. The vineyard is certified as organic by both the California Certified Organic Farmers and the California Department of Food and Agriculture. It has been set back from the property's creeks to substantially increase riparian vegetation. Oaks and other native tree species have been planted on the creek banks to prevent erosion. Throughout the property creeks and associated riparian areas have been protected and enhanced.

### HISTORY

The four hundred acre estate was originally part of the "Rancho Catacula" land grant, given to Joseph Ballinger Chiles in 1843 by the last Mexican governor of California. The Chiles family later sold a portion of their land to Francis Sievers, a German pioneer. In the 1870's, Sievers founded Lomita's Vineyard and Winery on the site. The original winery building, some of the tanks, and the original press still remain on the Estate. The oldest cabernet vines were planted by the Eisele's in 1976 and continue to yield fruit of superb quality.

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Cabernet Sauvignon, Ca

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