

## COOLEY RANCH VINEYARD

In the far reaches of Sonoma County, high atop undulating mountains around a glistening lake there is a special place, spanning 20,000 acres where an unexpected windfall has sparked a new approach to winemaking—it's called Cooley Ranch Vineyard and it's where everything started.



The history of Cooley Ranch is as rich and colorful as the vistas from its highest peak. Established in 1910 by Arthur Cooley, the 4,000 acres was intended as a place for the family to gather, hunt, fish and herd cattle. The first grapes weren't planted until 1930. By 1980, Cooley Ranch had expanded to 21,000 acres. In the early 2000s, the Cooley family was focused on protecting and preserving this beloved land with a partner so they signed a long-term lease with Tom Klein. This undertaking was approached with great care, beginning with an extensive 6-year study with viticulturalists evaluating the microclimates of the ranch, soil scientists digging 1,000 test pits to glean

where the best spots were to plant and finally, identifying 200 pristine acres atop iron-rich greenstone soils and began planting. The inaugural vintage, 2014 ROWEN Red Blend, was released into the world in 2018.

Cooley Ranch is truly a unique, remote vineyard. From climate to topography to soils to aspect, many factors set it apart. As the vineyard sits above the fog line, the grapes have increased sun exposure, which inspires thicker skins. Growing above the hot valleys allows the grapes to stay cooler during scorching days, which leads to denser, richer tannins. While most of the vines on Cooley Ranch are Cabernet, the property also grows all five traditional Bordeaux red varietals and a few others, including Chardonnay, Syrah and Viognier.

The vast spectrum of elevation and sun aspect combined with pristine, iron-rich soil make this ranch the ideal spot. Instead of following tried and true formulas, Senior VP of Winemaking & Winegrowing, Justin Seidenfeld, leans into the freedom of blending different varietals to showcase. There are no rules or constraints with winemaking for ROWEN Wine Company—Justin simply uses whatever the land provides. Much like that "unexpected second windfall", we look forward to what the future will bring to Cooley Ranch Vineyard and ROWEN Wine Company.