

S U T R O

W I N E C O M P A N Y



SUTRO WINE CO BACKGROUNDER

Updated March 2021

COORDINATES:

13301 Chalk Hill Road, Healdsburg CA 95448

Sonoma County – Alexander Valley

Phone (707) 509 - 9695

www.sutrowine.com, alice@sutrowine.com

Open for vineyard tours & tasting by appointment only

FOUNDED:

2012, by Alice Warnecke Sutro

CURRENT RELEASES:

2017 SUTRO Warnecke Ranch *Cabernet Sauvignon* (364 cases produced, \$55)

2017 SUTRO Warnecke Ranch *Merlot* (75 cases produced, \$50)

2020 SUTRO Warnecke Ranch *Cnopius Sauvignon Blanc* (350 cases produced, \$35)

2020 SUTRO Warnecke Ranch Rosé Saignée of Cabernet (75 cases produced, \$28)

All wines are Alexander Valley appellation, Sonoma County, estate-grown

HOSPITALITY:

Join founder and winemaker Alice Warnecke Sutro for a 35-minute nature hike at historic Warnecke Ranch & Vineyard, home to SUTRO Wine Co. Discover the volcanic terroir of vine-covered Mayacamas benchlands rising out of the narrow Russian River corridor. Carry home an intimate understanding of the aromatic journey from soil to wine glass. Following the hike, enjoy a guided tasting of three wines in the relaxing environment of a shady oak grove.

Reservation required and tours are limited to 6 people.

\$45/person, fee waived with min 3 bottle wine purchase.

Please allow 90 minutes for the hike and tasting.

SUTRO WINE CLUB: Two shipments annually: *6 or 12 bottles, red, white or mixed*. 10% discount on recurring shipment and all additional purchases; flat rate shipping; invitations to club-member-only special events; first access to allocation wines; complimentary tastings & tours; biannual release publication. More: <https://www.sutrowine.com/join>

Accolades: (see website for past vintages ratings & reviews)

2017 Cabernet Sauvignon

90 points Wine Enthusiast

9/10 points Alder Yarrow

Gold Medal Women's Wine Competition

Silver Medal Sunset International Wine Competition

Founding Story:

Sutro wines come from Warnecke Ranch estate grown grapes, located at the southern tip of Alexander Valley on the slopes of the Russian River. Chalk Hill Road is revered as a prime Bordeaux growing region and a small number of prestigious wineries have made their mark here. Sutro is woman founded, owned and operated by Alice Warnecke Sutro. Alice [is an artist](#) wine producer and agriculturalist. She grows the grapes, makes the wine and sells it. As an art practice, she draws people and specializes in bringing line drawing into community-based installations. She is an advocate of volcanic terroir and serves on the Alexander Valley Grapegrowers Board. She is the first in her family to make wine from Warnecke Ranch.

WARNECKE RANCH:

Alice's family, the Warneckes, have been stewards of this 260 acre ranch since 1911. Perched in the middle of Chalk Hill Road, with a mile frontage on the Russian River, the property has been a sheep farm, dairy ranch, and a satellite office for John Carl Warnecke's architectural firm. In 1973, 80 acres were planted to Bordeaux varietals and a ranch office established in the old dairy barn. Alice has lived here since 2010 with her husband Eliot Sutro and children Isabel (6) and Adin (4). She works for her aunt Margo Warnecke Merck to manage the family business: growing grapes and maintaining the community of rental homes.

The Ranch is also home to the Chalk Hill Artist Residency, founded in 2010 to support contemporary artists, inclusive of artists living with disabilities. Today Warnecke Ranch is a lively community of family, friends, artists, agriculturalists, environmental enthusiasts and wildlife.

TERROIR:

Warnecke Ranch grapes grow in the famous volcanic soils of Chalk Hill Road. The site is purely volcanic. Distinguishing features for this volcanic terroir include soil composition, slopes, altitude, and marine influence. The vineyard soils on the slopes of the Russian River are well drained loam composed of compacted volcanic ash from the Sonoma Volcanics period 3 million years ago. The vineyard is planted at 260 ft elevation, on gently sloped foothills that are part of the Mayacamas mountain range that separates Sonoma from Napa. The tallest peak in this range, and the tallest peak in the northbay, is Mt St Helena. The Russian River cuts through the foothills pulling moderating influences from the Pacific inland to this warm climate zone, providing cool nights and extended foggy mornings well suited to classic Bordeaux varietals.

FARMING:

Certified Sustainable, Fish Friendly Farming.

Since 2010, Margo Warnecke Merck is the managing partner for the Warneckes' family-owned business and is President of Warnecke Ranch & Vineyard, as well as Director for Chalk Hill Artist Residency.

SAN FRANCISCO ROOTS:

The Warneckes and Sutros have been in the Bay Area since the 1850's, shaping the landscape of their beloved home-town San Francisco and its environs through entrepreneurship, building & development, and the arts. Alice Warnecke Sutro aims to produce a wine that is true to its site, a brand that is an authentic continuation of San Francisco history, and a brand ethos that carries on the family tradition of creativity.

Alice's paternal grandfather [John Carl Warnecke](#) had the largest architectural firm in the U.S. in the 1970s. His father [Carl I. Warnecke](#) was a well-established East Bay architect with a presence in Guerneville. Alice's maternal great grandfather [Oliver Rousseau](#) developed much of the housing in the Sunset neighborhood. Alice's paternal great-great-grandfather Sidney B. [Cushing](#) built the crookedest railroad up Mt. Tamalpais. Alice's father Fred Warnecke has had a successful career as a landscape architect. The prominent project of the Lone Sailor Navy Memorial just north of the Golden Gate Bridge is his design. Alice's husband Eliot Sutro's architectural firm is employed all over San Francisco for high-end residential work. Eliot is related to the Sutro who was part of the Pillsbury Madison Sutro Bay Area law firm, a cousin to [Adolph Sutro](#), mining engineer, mayor of SF and major city developer in late 19th century San Francisco.