

# BACKGROUND



Robert Livermore planted first commercial vines in the 1940's.

One of California's oldest wine regions, the Livermore Valley played a pivotal role in shaping California's wine industry. Robert Livermore planted the first commercial vines in the 1840s. Pioneer winemakers C. H. Wente, James Concannon and Charles Wetmore recognized the

area's winegrowing potential and founded their wineries in the early 1880s. International recognition followed when Livermore Valley captured America's first international gold medal for wine in 1889 at the Paris Exposition, putting California on the world wine map.

The birthplace of California Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon, Livermore Valley has contributed significantly to the state's enology and viticulture that lives on today. Nearly 80 percent of California's Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon vines trace their genetic roots to a Wente or Concannon clone. Livermore Valley wineries also were the first to bottle varietally labeled Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc and Petite Sirah.

Attracted to the rich winemaking tradition, climate, soil and geography, new winemakers and vineyardists are working alongside fifth generation winegrowers

to create a Livermore Valley wine renaissance. The region is now home to more than 50 wineries, varying from limited release, 500-case boutiques to 400,000-case industry leaders. Vineyard plantings range from familiar Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay to Italian, Rhone and Spanish varieties. Welcoming tasting rooms showcase award-winning wines and offer year-round activities. In addition to the myriad happenings at individual wineries, the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association sponsors several regional events each year, showcasing the talent, energy and fine wines of the region.



Modern wine makers and harvesting methods build upon the 100 year traditions that echo through the Livermore Valley.



Charles Wetmore won Grand Prix at the International Exposition in Paris in 1889.



Concannon bottling line in 1936.

C.H. Wente and family in 1883

