

BELTANE RANCH

The Wood family

Five generations of the Wood family have lived and worked on the Beltane Ranch over more than 70 years, and they are committed to protecting it for future generations.

Ralph and Effia Heins bought the historic property in 1936, raising turkeys, sheep and cattle, and planting the ranch's famous raspberry patch. While caring for her aunt in the 1970s, Rosemary Wood slowly renovated the New Orleans style Victorian ranch house and opened it as a bed and breakfast inn. She enlarged her gardens to supply the inn's kitchen with farm-grown produce and planted olive groves.

In 2002, the family reached an agreement with the Sonoma County Agricultural Preserve and Open Space District to transfer 1,300 acres to public ownership. Rosemary, her daughter Alexa, and grandchildren Alex and Lauren Benward still operate the ranch, maintaining the historic inn and raising sustainably farmed produce, grass-fed beef and heritage laying hens.

Thirty acres of the ranch are planted to Sauvignon Blanc, Zinfandel, Petite Sirah, Carignane and Alicante Bouschet vines. Until 2009, the entire grape harvest was a favorite grape source for notable local wineries including Cakebread Cellars in Napa Valley. Beltane Ranch's inaugural private label Sauvignon Blanc debuts in 2010.



Kevin Holt, Winemaker



Kevin Holt crafts Beltane Ranch's private label Sauvignon Blanc to reflect the property's authenticity and rustic elegance. Under his supervision, the grapes are allowed to mature until they develop ripe fig and melon flavors, then are whole cluster pressed and cold soaked in stainless tanks to protect the juice. Holt uses a combination of new and neutral oak barrels to add a hint of spiciness to the bright, intensely flavored wine. Holt honed his skills at Testarossa Vineyards in Los Gatos, Quivira Vineyards in Healdsburg and Artesa in Napa before joining MacRostie Winery and Vineyards in Sonoma, where he now works as winemaker.

Chuy Ordaz, Vineyard Manager

As owner of Palo Alto Vineyard Management in Kenwood, Chuey Ordaz has built his career coaxing prize-winning grapes from Sonoma Valley's distinctive rocky, volcanic soils. For 37 years Beltane Ranch's historic vineyards have been in his care.

