Introduction to Clos du Bois

CLOS du BOIS
All the French you need to know.
Sonoma County, California

Constellation Academy of Wine
Presentation Overview

- History of Clos du Bois
- Winemaker Erik Olsen
- Sustainability
- Sonoma County
- The Portfolio
  - The Classics
  - Sonoma Reserve
  - Proprietary Series
- Summary
- Quiz
- Additional Resources
History

- Founded in 1974 by Frank Woods and partners
- Marrying French elegance and California fruit-forward approachability
- Clos du Bois = “Enclosure in the woods”
- First vintage included Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Cabernet Sauvignon
- Launched Marlstone, the first Bordeaux style blend in Sonoma, in 1978
- [Founding of Clos du Bois transcript](#) from Regional Oral History Project at University of California at Berkeley, 1998
Winemaker: Erik Olsen

- Joined Clos du Bois in 2003 - Chateau Ste. Michelle, Robert Mondavi, Simi
- Education includes:
  - BS in Fermentation Science from UC Davis
  - MS in Food Science from Cornell
  - MBA from the University of Washington
- More than 50 wines that scored 90 or better
- Text of interview with Tasting Panel Magazine, November 2008
A Leader in Sustainability

- Clos du Bois is a recognized leader in sustainability and environmentally responsible business practices
  - Integrated pest management
  - Energy efficiency
  - Wetland restoration
  - Fish Friendly Farming Alexander Valley [webpage](#)
  - Restoration of riparian habitat
  - Responsible water consumption
  - Recycling programs
- Clos du Bois’ [Green webpage](#)
- Named a “Green Revolutionary” by *Wine Spectator* in 2007
Sonoma County: A Sense of Place

- One of the most famous wine growing areas in US
- 52 miles long, 47 miles wide
- Over 59,000 acres and just over 200 wineries
- [Sonoma Interactive Wine Map](#)
Sonoma Climate

- **Coolest:** Los Carneros, Sonoma Coast, and the Green and Russian River Valleys
- **Moderate:** Chalk Hill, Sonoma Mountain, and Northern Sonoma
- **Warmest:** Alexander, Knights and Dry Creek Valleys
Portfolio: Three Distinct Tiers

**Proprietary Series**

- Flagship wines that represent the pinnacle of the Clos du Bois winemaking tradition
- Ultra “boutique” winemaking
- Best sourcing of Alexander & Russian River Valleys

**Sonoma Reserve**

- Limited production from vineyard sites which represent exceptional quality
- Reflection of regional terroir – Alexander and Russian River Valleys

**Classics**

- True-to-varietal wines that reflect the winery’s accessible and refined winemaking style
- Working with a family of trusted growers and more than 700 acres of estate vineyards across Sonoma County
The Classics

- A full complement of whites and reds: Chardonnay, Pinot Grigio, Sauvignon Blanc, Riesling, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Pinot Noir, Shiraz, Zinfandel
- North Coast, Sonoma County, California appellations
- Still using small winery techniques
- Wines that are fruit forward and approachable, and consistently over-deliver for their price point
The Sonoma Reserve Tier

- Focus on specific appellations within Sonoma County:
  - Chardonnay, Russian River Valley
  - Cabernet Sauvignon, Alexander Valley
  - Merlot, Alexander Valley
  - Pinot Noir, Sonoma Coast

- Small production wines, artisan techniques
The Proprietary Series

- Unrestricted pursuit of quality
  - **Calcaire**: Chardonnay
  - **Briarcrest**: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon
  - **Marlstone**: Bordeaux Blend
    - 1st Bordeaux blend in Sonoma County!
    - 2nd in California

- Special fruit from the most sought-after sites in Alexander and Russian River Valleys
- Small-scale farming overseen by Erik Olsen
- Ultra “boutique” winemaking
Remember

- Our name means “Enclosure in the Woods”
- A leader in sustainability
- Winemaker Erik Olsen
- Our grapes are sourced from the great Sonoma County Appellations
- Boutique winemaking techniques
- The first Bordeaux blend in Sonoma
- 3 Tiers: The Classics, Sonoma Reserve Series, and Proprietary Series
Additional Resources

- Clos du Bois [brand standards](#)
- Clos du Bois [website](#)
- Clos du Bois [mobile wine profiles](#)
- Constellation Wines [website](#)
- Academy of Wine [website](#)
- Sonome County Winegrape Commission [website](#)
Thank You