



SNOWDEN

BROTHERS VINEYARD ... a legacy

The year was 1955 and we were just 8 and 5 years old when our parents found the family property here in the Napa Valley. It was a time when vineyards took a back seat to cattle, hay, row crops, and fruit and nut orchards. A rolling tract of woodlands with a hilltop vineyard, the ranch, as we came to call it, was located on the east side of Napa Valley between Rutherford and St. Helena. Over the next several years we explored its woods, meadows, orchards and vineyards; we played, hiked, camped – and eventually learned to work – on the ranch. It was a magical childhood. It was a magical place.

We watched the friends of our parents slowly evolve the Napa Valley from a rural enclave into the formidable grape growing, wine making place that it is today. During high school and college we landed summer jobs at pioneer-iconic wineries – Inglenook, Beau-lieu, Heitz, and Robert Mondavi.

We pursued careers outside farming and the wine business, but spent all of our discretionary time at the ranch, learning the terroir and gradually coming to understand the amazing legacy that had come into our care. Wine grapes have been grown continuously on the property since 1878, when it was first homesteaded by Levi Philander Davis. Our father, Wayne, planted the first Cabernet Sauvignon grapes on the property in the early 1960s on the site of an abandoned orchard. He got the cuttings from Nathan Fay, who had just planted what would become his renowned vineyard in the Stags Leap area.

Responsibility for managing the ranch passed to us when our father died in 1977. In 1981, we replanted the eleven acre Brothers Vineyard, utilizing Cabernet Sauvignon cuttings from Jordan Vineyards in the Alexander Valley. The fruit from the Brothers Vineyard was highly regarded and over the years purchasers included Stags Leap Wine Cellars, Silver Oak Cellars, Caymus Vineyards, and Ramey.

By the turn of the century, the Brothers Vineyard had proved itself to be the best grape growing site at the ranch – but we believed it had not reached its full potential. To see if we were right, we replanted the block in 2011 using Cabernet Sauvignon clones selected to produce the most distinctive wines from the site: Entav 15 (337), Entav 169, and FPS 33 (191), all on 420-A rootstock.

Since then, we have been watching the vines like anxious parents. The first real crop was harvested in 2013 and winemaker Diana Snowden Seysses has shepherded the fruit from vine, to fermenter, to barrel, to bottle with precision, patience, and care. The resulting wines vindicate our confidence in the terrior which is the Brothers Vineyard. We love the vineyard and we love the wines it is beginning to produce.

Scott & Randy Snowden

- *The Snowden ranch has been producing wine grapes since 1878*
- *The ranch came into the Snowden family in 1955, when it was purchased by Wayne and Virginia Snowden*
- *Their sons, Scott and Randy Snowden assumed responsibility for the property when Wayne died and in 1981 replanted the Brothers Vineyard block*
- *In 1993 the Snowdens produced their first vintage under their own label*
- *Scott's daughter, Diana Snowden Seysses, became winemaker in 2005*
- *The Brothers Vineyard was replanted in 2011 utilizing the latest grapegrowing technology and Cabernet Sauvignon clones selected to best express the site*
- *The 2013 vintage is the first commercial release of Snowden Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon - Brothers Vineyard*

