

RUTHERFORD DUST SOCIETY



"It takes Rutherford Dust to grow Great Cabernet."
—André Tchelistcheff

E - NEWSLETTER — JULY 2008

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SOLAR WINERIES CELEBRATE SOLSTICE WITH FIRST ANNUAL "SOLARBRATION"



This summer solstice, wineries at the heart of the solar power trend in Wine Country celebrated the day of the year when the sun shines the longest with the first annual Solarbration. On June 21, from 5:30 p.m. until sunset, ZD Wines, Honig Vineyard & Winery, and Peju Province Winery hosted a solstice celebration, with special wine tastings, sustainably grown gourmet cuisine, and live entertainment at each of their facilities. Guests were invited on a behind-the-scenes tour of the solar energy systems that power the wineries. All proceeds were donated to the Land Trust of Napa County, who was in attendance to answer questions about their land-saving work.

ZD is the latest Rutherford winery to adopt solar power, with the installation of a 125 kW system earlier this year. The 714-module design supplies 100 percent of the energy used in ZD's production.



Honig's solar power system—or their "electricity farm" as they like to call it—is one of the largest in Napa County. The 146 kW system consists of 819 modules, generating 100 percent of their power.

At Peju, 720 panels were installed above the winery's crush pad, barrel room, tank area and offices. The 126 kW system provides 36 percent of Peju's energy needs.



Collectively, the adoption of solar power by the wineries will eliminate the emission of nearly 11,000 tons of CO₂ over the next 30 years—equivalent to the carbon captured by 100 acres of forest—while saving over \$132,000 in electricity costs in the coming year alone. While Napa County as a whole tops the Northern California Solar Energy Association's list of Bay Area counties with over 51 watts of photovoltaic power installed per capita—more than twice the amount of No. 2 Sonoma with 26 watts per capita—Rutherford now has more than 1,000 solar watts per capita. ZD, Honig and Peju are launching Solarbration to commemorate Rutherford's status as the "most solar town" in the San Francisco Bay Area.

According to Sunlight Electric (<http://sunlightelectric.com>), Napa County wineries have adopted solar energy 42 times faster than California businesses overall. "Within Napa, Rutherford wineries are at the forefront of this trend," says CEO Rob Erlichman.

www.zdwines.com/solarbration.

www.honigwine.com/solarbration.

www.peju.com/solarbration.

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FROSTY SPRING FINALLY BEHIND US

This spring, the frost hit us 26 nights in a row in some of the worst spots, making this year almost equal to 1971. The frost had some of us up for more than 20 nights. Our vineyard neighbors did not enjoy listening to the wind machines, which are used for frost protection; however, the farmers had it worse. We were up before midnight checking thermometers and starting frost systems, then continuing the day as if we'd had been in bed for 8 hours. We'd finish the day early, only to start

over all over again the next night.

Not only were the frost nights numerous and long, they behaved in an unusual manner. Some nights the frost started in the north valley and moved slowly south. Other nights the frost started mid-valley and crept up and down valley. The most unusual frost started in Napa, working its way up valley. We ended up with severe damage in the lower parts of various blocks across the valley, with some serious damage in the mountains. Though the damage was severe it was only in isolated spots. Some areas were blackened with frost; others looked as if they hadn't seen any cold. Replacement shoots are sometimes fruitful and sometimes not. The biggest problem will be the difference in maturity: the plants damaged by frost will need to start growing again, while the undamaged plants will be farther along the development cycle. Deciding when to pick will be an interesting dilemma. Though we also had some extreme heat with temperatures over 100 degrees, the spring continued with lower than normal temperatures, with very vigorous growth.

With below average rainfall last winter, many growers are wondering how long their water will last. Will another heat spike reduce that even further, and add more stress to the vines? The quantity of the harvest will be lower than that of big years like 2005 and 2006, but only time will tell. The vineyards undamaged by frost look to have a lot of clusters, so the total tons may be close to average. Each day brings a new adventure. Welcome to the romantic world of farming!
www.pinanapavalley.com

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RAYMOND VINEYARDS PLANTS SAUVIGNON BLANC VINEYARD AND INTRODUCES SMALL-LOT WINE SERIES

Raymond Vineyards is currently planting 11,250 Sauvignon Blanc vines over fifteen acres at the south end of their Rutherford estate property. Three of the most popular Sauvignon Blanc clones were selected: 25% Clone Sauvignon Musque for added fruity qualities and rounder mouth feel, as well as 35% Clone 1 and 40% Clone 6, both chosen for their overall quality and blending purposes. Rootstocks 3309 and SO4 were selected for planting. The two rootstocks were grafted with the clone selections in the winter of 2007 and field grown until late summer, when they were removed from the soil, trimmed and bundled for cold storage throughout the winter of 2008 to retain dormancy until planting this spring as dormant benchgraft vines. This will be the first Sauvignon Blanc ever planted on the Raymond Rutherford estate property. Sauvignon Blanc is the third largest vineyard acreage planting in the Rutherford appellation with 182 acres planted to date. It follows 2,253 acres of Cabernet Sauvignon (approximately 70% of Rutherford's vineyard acreage) and 427 acres of Merlot.

The new Small Lot wine series marks the winery's move toward ultra-premium, limited production Napa Valley wines available exclusively to their wine club members and tasting room guests. Initial releases will include a Barrel Fermented Chardonnay, a Petite Sirah and the first Meritage red wine from Raymond since the 1991 vintage. Case production for each wine will vary from 50 cases to 500 cases, depending on the blend, and will be sold entirely at the winery and through their website store. Raymond Vineyards will release six Small Lot wines in 2008, three reds from the 2005 vintage along with two whites and a Rosé from the 2007 vintage (shown here). The Barrel Fermented Chardonnay was released to coincide with the winery's Summer Solstice



Celebration taking place on the afternoon of June 21.
www.raymondvineyards.com

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ROMANTIC RUTHERFORD BY REBECCA YERGER

The origins of Rutherford are quite romantic. It all began when Elizabeth Yount and Thomas Rutherford exchanged vows on July 29, 1864. The bride's grandfather, George Yount, gave the newlyweds a generous wedding gift of 1,040 acres. This Napa Valley land was a portion of the northern section of George Yount's Rancho Caymus.

Yount's gift also included a home for the newlyweds. He had moved one of his buildings onto the 1,040 acres. This building is currently located on the south side of Rutherford Crossroad near the eastern bank of the Napa River. Following its rehabilitation, this residence was re-named "Tusitala" by the Ritchie family. As a side note, the land located on the north side of Rutherford Cross road was once a part of the southern boundaries of Edward Bale's Rancho Carne Humana.

Returning to Rutherford's beginnings, the last name of the newlyweds quickly became associated with this unincorporated agricultural community. By 1868 the Napa Valley Railroad schedules and maps listed this mid-Napa Valley settlement as Rutherford Station.

With the rail lines and its train station came another essential service, telegraph lines, which further enhanced Rutherford's development as did the new post office and schoolhouse. The first Rutherford post office was commissioned on September 25, 1871. The schoolhouse opened about 17 years later. By the late-1800s, Rutherford had grown into a thriving small town--from the hopes and dreams of a young romance to become the heart of Napa Valley.

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RECENT WINE AWARDS



Riboli Family Vineyard
Cabernet Sauvignon Rutherford 2005
91 points
Fresh loamy, earthy currant, anise, sage, tar and minty tobacco scents are firm and concentrated, with ripe, chewy tannins that provide structure and depth. Drink now through 2013. — J.L.
Wine Spectator Insider, Vol. 4, No. 19, May 14, 2008
www.riboliwines.com

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