

Cima Collina

Annette Hoff, Winemaker *Napa Trained, Monterey Focus*

Cima Collina Winemaker Annette Hoff will tell you that her entire winemaking career has been a consistent march toward Monterey, that each stop along the way has prepared her for the opportunity to apply her artisan's approach to producing the purest expressions of Monterey County wines.

Annette's Cima Collina wines, as well as those she's made all over the world, are the product of all the people who worked to get it into the bottle...from grower to cellar worker. She is convinced that Cima Collina's Monterey County wines should and will be among the finest she, her colleagues and the region have to offer.

NAPA TRAINED

Annette's first important winemaking experience came when Sterling Vineyards winemaker Bill Dyer chose Annette to run their experimental winery in Napa Valley in 1994. The full-fledged winery-inside-a-winery made more than 200 cases of wine annually, spread over numerous experimental bottlings. The position gave Annette extensive experience running a winery and was also her introduction to making Pinot Noir as well as working with some of Napa's finest Cabernet and Merlot fruit.

By 1996 she was discovered by Napa/Carneros Pinot Noir producer Saintsbury. She left Sterling to pursue her growing passion for Pinot Noir as the enologist at one of America's premier producers of the wine. It was, according to Annette, a pure Pinot Noir education.

"Everything at Saintsbury was about producing world class Pinot Noir with integrity and with a devotion to the grapes," says Annette. "I soaked it up and realized Pinot would be the varietal around which I wanted to shape my career."

NEW ZEALAND

In 1998 Annette left for New Zealand with a desire to explore that country's wine production and its approach to Pinot Noir. She was what she termed a "peddling cellar rat", often riding around the Martinborough region, working with various wineries. That lasted a few months until she came back to America to become the Pinot Noir winemaker at Estancia Winery in Monterey County.

MONTEREY

Monterey immediately reminded her of New Zealand where an intense maritime climate dominated winegrowing. The position gave her the opportunity to apply everything she had learned in Napa Valley and also in New Zealand about cold climate Pinot Noir production. Her Pinot Noir at Estancia

gained nearly immediate acclaim. By 2000, Annette was ready to strike out on her own, becoming a consultant to many small producers in the Monterey area, a winegrowing area of great potential defined for her by the variety of outstanding small vineyard sites in the region.

CIMA COLLINA

In 2004, Annette was convinced to quit her consulting work and create a new winery, Cima Collina. She saw it as an opportunity to play a role in defining quality in an emerging wine region. Today, Annette is charged with overseeing the day-to-day management of Cima Collina as well as making the wine. She works closely with growers and oversees sales and marketing, but can most often be found in the vineyards or in the cellar. Annette lives in Carmel Valley with her husband and their son.

"Cima Collina is an opportunity to put together the finest of what Monterey has to offer."

