

# Editors' CHOICE

## *Hanzell Vineyards*

SONOMA, CALIFORNIA'S HANZELL Vineyards ([www.hanzell.com](http://www.hanzell.com)) was established in 1948, when Ambassador James D. Zellerbach acquired 200 acres in the Mayacamas Mountains. His ambition was to create a small vineyard and winery dedicated to high-quality pinot noir and chardonnay. The Zellerbachs planted six acres in 1953 (now the oldest pinot noir vineyard in America) and created the first vintage in 1957. They named their winery Hanzell, a contraction of the name of the Ambassador's wife, Hana Zellerbach. The Zellerbachs sold the estate to the Day family in 1965, and in 1975, the de Brie family acquired it.

The original six-acre vineyard has grown to 46 acres today, allowing Hanzell to produce 6,000 cases annually: three-quarters chardonnay and one-quarter pinot noir. In current release is a 2005 chardonnay, with citrus peel, bread dough, and subtle floral, pear, and apple aromas; a 2005 pinot noir, with tea leaf, tobacco, espresso,



blackberry, cured meat, and wet cedar tones and abundant tannin (allocated to Ambassador's Circle collectors only); and the 2005 Ambassador's 1953 Vineyard Chardonnay, made from the fruit of the original Hanzell chardonnay vines, planted in 1953 – now the oldest continually producing chardonnay vines in California. Four barrels were blended to create this historic, single-vineyard bottling, and the 93 estate-bottled cases are available to Ambassador's Circle collectors only.

Membership in the Ambassador's Circle also provides members access to the Hanzell wine library, which comprises five decades of vintages. Members also enjoy allocation and direct shipment of each of the vineyard's wines upon release; allocation of the rare Ambassador's 1953 Vineyard Pinot Noir and Chardonnay; a holiday magnum bottle, shipped in a fire-branded wooden box; and complimentary estate visits for themselves and their guests. ●