The World of Wine

Landmark Vineyards

LANDMARK VINEYARDS WAS FOUNDED IN THE Windsor area of Sonoma County in 1974. In 1989, John Deere's great great granddaughter, Damaris Deere Ford, relocated Landmark Vineyards to a piece of land at the base of Sugarloaf Mountain in the Sonoma Valley, where she built a Spanish mission style winery equipped with state-of-theart winemaking equipment capable of producing 20,000 cases of wine per year.

Ford's son, Michael Deere Colhoun, and his wife Mary moved from the east coast to join her as partners in the winery. In 1993, the Colhouns hired world-renowned consulting enologist Helen Turley to work with winemaker Eric Stern. Under Stern's direction, Landmark's wines have consistently garnered rave reviews from the wine writers. Their signature Overlook Chardonnay has appeared on the Wine Spectator "Top 100" list six times since 1997. All the wines in the Overlook bottling are barrel fermented using indigenous yeasts and undergo full malolatic fermentation. The wine is aged sur lie for nine months in Burgundian barrels and racked to tanks for blending. The 22 separate vineyards that comprise the 2006 Overlook include such distinguished growers as Sangaciomo, Bien Nacido, Martinelli, and Lorenzo. The names of Landmark's wines reflect their John Deere heritage and include the Grand Detour Pinot Noir and Steel Plow Syrah.

In addition to the estate vineyard, Landmark sources grapes from a range of different vineyards, and those selected are among the finest in the highly diverse microclimates of California's winegrowing regions. While the variation of the wines from vintage to vintage can be dramatic or subtle, the crafting of each year's wine is guided by a single overriding philosophy at Landmark that less is more.

For those who've had visions of starting their own winery, Landmark offers their Friends of the Vineyard program. Limited to 100 members, it's designed to provide all the perks of the wine country lifestyle, including your own row of vines in the Esprit du Rhône vineyard marked with a personalized plaque where picnics or private tastings can be set up, and personalized labeled wines with members receiving five cases of wine each vintage.

Landmark Vineyards' wines are distributed throughout the United States and are available in some foreign markets, as well as via Landmark's Tasting Room and online store at www.landmarkwine.com.



