



The Yorkville Highlands Appellation

Wine made with passion & patience.



YORKVILLE HIGHLANDS

Vineyard Acreage Summary

Cabernet Sauvignon	77
Syrah	66
Pinot Noir	49
Merlot	46
Zinfandel	33
Petite Sirah	17
Other Reds	45
Total Red Varietals	333
Sauvignon Blanc	39
Chardonnay	19
Other Whites	10
Total White Varietals	68
Total Planted Acres	401

There are 22 vineyards planted averaging 18 acres each; all of them family-run.

There are currently 21 different wine grape varietals planted.

Of the total acres planted 83% are reds; compared with the rest of Mendocino County, where Chardonnay is the most planted varietal.

Cabernet Sauvignon is the most widely planted varietal.

Just 1% of the land mass is planted to vineyard.

There are currently just 41 wines available made from Yorkville Highlands grapes; all produced in very limited quantities.

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If one were to ask the winegrowers and winemakers of Yorkville Highlands why this region is so special, virtually all would respond, "the strong sense of place". For each vintner, there is a story of how and why they chose this region to plant their vineyards. For it is this sense of place that is the driving force to create wines that truly reflect the unique terroir found in the Yorkville Highlands growing region.

Yorkville Highlands is located in the foothills above the Anderson Valley to the northwest and above the Alexander Valley to the southeast. The combination of the region's elevation, soil, relationship to the coast are all features that set Yorkville Highlands apart from its neighbors. The close proximity to the ocean allows for cooling afternoon breezes which flow throughout the region's bench lands. Their inland location and higher elevation (between 1,000 and 2,200 feet) sees warmer days during the summer than the nearby Anderson Valley. The total heat summation during the growing season in the Yorkville Highlands is typically about 15-20% hotter than the Anderson Valley but 10-15% cooler than the Alexander Valley.

The bench land vines benefit from this cooling effect, which protects the fruit from over-ripening and causes some of the coldest evening temperatures along the North Coast. These frigid nighttime conditions are essential for preserving grape acidity. The moderated temperatures allow for an extended growing season, with the majority of the fruit being picked late in the season. Mature tannins in the red wines are the result; they are long and complex without being overpowering. Most winemakers of the region agree that Yorkville Highlands fruit can ripen evenly, with acidity, structure, and richness balancing each other in the wines of the appellation.

Yorkville Highlands soils also play an instrumental role in grape development. The gravel and ancient, brittle rock characteristics found in the thin soils on the high benches force the vines to dig deep into the soil. This poor and gravelly soil type probably explains the mineral characteristic of many Yorkville Highlands wines.

But quality in the Highlands extends beyond the grape or the wine – it speaks to the way of life of the grower and winemaker, both individually and collectively. The region proudly boasts that 100% of the wineries are family owned and managed. Pick up the phone and call one of the region's tasting rooms and you will most likely hear the owner on the other end. That is, unless the owner is out in the field personally tending the vines.

The drive for quality extends beyond the individual Highlander. Growers and winemakers unite as one to continually enhance the region whether it's sharing best practices or hosting the Yorkville Highlands Wine Festival. This annual August celebration of the Highlands' bounty is shared with all so they too can experience the excellence of this remarkable appellation. We invite you to join us at one of our Wine Festivals to taste through our wines, meet our vintners and dine with us and our neighbors.

As with all appellations, Yorkville Highlands is often defined by the consistency and quality of the excellent wine it produces. But to those who really appreciate this appellation, they know it is defined by the passion and quality of the growers and winemakers that call it home.