



FOURSIGHT WINES

KEY FACTS SUMMARY

WINERY LOCATION:	Anderson Valley Mendocino County, California
PROPERTY ACQUIRED:	1950, by the Charles family
WINERY PRINCIPALS:	Kristy Charles, Joe Webb, William Charles and Nancy Charles
YEAR WINERY FOUNDED:	2006
CASE PRODUCTION:	Approximately 3,000 cases annually
WINES PRODUCED:	Charles Vineyard Pinot Noir (multiple bottlings) Charles Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc Charles Vineyard Semillon Other small lots (Vin Gris, Unoaked Pinot, Late-Harvest)

OTHER INTERESTING FACTS:

- We have never inoculated with yeast or ML bacteria and bottle the majority of our wines unfiltered & unfiltered
- We were one of a handful of wineries to start labeling our wines with ingredients, starting in 2010
- We are family owned, operated and staffed, from the tasting room to the winery
- We produce 100% vegan- and vegetarian-friendly wines and we were the first in the U.S. to list that on a wine label

WINEMAKING: Our winemaking philosophy combines a belief that vineyards are a winery's greatest asset and that, under ideal conditions, nature is the greatest winemaker. We have always practiced a very hands-on type of viticulture: every day finds a member of our family working in the vineyard during the growing season, thus ensuring that the fruit we harvest from our estate vineyard is of the highest quality each and every year.

We ferment our Pinot Noir using only wild yeasts that are native to our vineyard site and 10-50% whole clusters. New oak is used as a winemaking tool, but will never be the main flavor component in our wines. Our Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon are fermented in a combination of stainless steel and French oak barrels.

THE TASTING ROOM: Our tasting room just south of downtown Boonville opened in late March 2009. It was designed by William Charles and the lumber for the structure was recycled from redwood originally used in the Charles Lumber Company mill. The address is 14475 Hwy. 128, Boonville, CA 95415. The tasting room and winery are set alongside a 100-year-old fruit orchard that still produces figs, apples, quinces, peaches and more.

By the end of 2023, we will finish a large solar installation at the winery, making Foursight the second 100% solar-powered winery in Anderson Valley. Also in the works in 2023 is Mendocino Lavender & Pollinator Garden — a one-acre lavender farm consisting of several varieties and ringed by a large hedgerow of native California wildflowers, shrubs and other plants.



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CHARLES VINEYARD

VINEYARD LOCATION:	Anderson Valley, Mendocino County, California
VARIETALS:	Pinot Noir: 12.5 acres Sauvignon Blanc: 2 acres Semillon: 0.3 acres
PLANTED:	2001
CLONES:	Pinot Noir: Pommard 05, 777, 115, 114 Sauvignon Blanc: 376 Semillon: 316
ROOTSTOCKS:	Pinot Noir is primarily on 101-14, with the balance being S04 and a small portion of 5C. The Sauvignon Blanc is planted on 1103P.

OUR VINEYARD: Established in 2001 by William and Nancy Charles, Charles Vineyard is located just southeast of the town of Boonville and is planted primarily to Pinot Noir and Sauvignon Blanc. In our location we can experience daily temperature swings of 40 to 50 degrees Fahrenheit, which adds to the rich flavors and strong acid profile of our grapes. Winters can be very wet, as the annual rainfall in Boonville averages 41.6 inches. Fortunately, our vineyard sits on an ancient river bed, which means our well-drained soils are suited to this annual moisture level. The modern-day version of this ancient river, called Anderson Creek, now borders our property on the east, separating us from the eastern foothills of the valley.

On any given day during the season, you can find us in the vineyard, performing one of many tasks that keep our vineyard healthy and producing the best quality fruit possible. We practice what we like to call vine-by-vine viticulture: Spending so much time in the vineyard enables us to know the vines' particular needs and tend them accordingly, from adjusting compost levels to changing pruning techniques for next year's harvest. We live on our land, and so farm our vineyard sustainably and responsibly to ensure that the vineyard, and our family, is healthy and happy.

THE ANDERSON VALLEY: Located approximately 115 miles north of San Francisco and 10-15 miles from the ocean, days in Anderson Valley are warm and sunny while nights and mornings are often cool and foggy. This allows wine grapes to mature slowly and develop full varietal character. Winter lows can linger between 20-30 degrees Fahrenheit while summer highs can reach 80-100 F. The valley floor is 16 miles long and 1/2 to 1 1/2 miles wide. It is surrounded on three sides by rolling hills and low mountains (2,000-3,000 feet in elevation) and opens to the Pacific Ocean via the Navarro River canyon.



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CHARLES FAMILY HISTORY

The Charles family combines French, German and English ancestries, including a group of French Huguenots (Protestants) from Alsace, France, who fled to Germany and then to the United States to escape religious persecution. Records show Charles family ancestors first arrived in the United States around 1635.

After their arrival in the United States, the family migrated west, from New York to Chicago, then to the Black Hills of South Dakota. The local economy at that time mostly consisted of mining, logging, and other related industries. Members of the Charles family worked as machinists, as managers of hydroelectric plants and sawmills, and as master mechanics and chief engineers. Ultimately, it was the lumber business that brought them to California.

In 1943, Homer Albert “Twink” Charles, his wife Margaret Belle Charles, his son Homer “Norman” Charles, and his father, Homer Charles, arrived in Anderson Valley to join the Northern California lumber boom. It was war time, and even though workers were scarce, land and trees were plentiful.

Upon arriving, Twink and Homer decided to build a sawmill and operate it on rented property just west of town. Because labor was scarce, crew stealing was a popular pastime that they would soon learn to perfect. Every Sunday, mill owners in the valley would converge at the local bar. There they would entice all able workers (with more than a few drinks) to join them at their mill the following Monday morning. The next Sunday, their former employer would steal them back, and the cycle would continue.

Twink and Homer operated their mill outside the town of Boonville until 1949, when the log deck caught on fire and they were forced to carry all the machinery off of the site and move it into a field outside town. They were able to save most of their equipment and logs. However, they had begun to outgrow the site even before the fire. So, in January of 1950, they bought the piece of property that the Charles family still lives on, just east of Highway 128 in Boonville. They built a new mill building, moved in their equipment, and Charles Lumber Company was founded.

Mill cabins were built under a grove of trees on the property. Often consisting of two rooms with shared restrooms and wash rooms, the cabins were simple, sturdy structures for the workers to live in. One of these cabins still stands on the Charles property, next to one of the family homes.

In April of 1950, Twink and Homer built the house that Bill and Nancy Charles now live in. Bill Charles was born a month later. His older brother, Norman, was 12.

The early 1950s were rough, rowdy times. Fighting was a popular pastime, locals spoke “Boontling” (a crude language invented in the valley to exclude outsiders and women), and the valley's population was booming. There were multiple bars (including one called the Bucket of Blood), a movie theater, pharmacy and bank – more amenities than can be found in present-day Boonville.

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During this time, the Charles Lumber Company mill was up and running, and the family bought several pieces of property to source timber from. One of these pieces still remains in the family, perched on the hilltops to the west of Boonville. Another is the current site of the Boonville airport and adjacent subdivision, where many homes still have private plane hangars.

Twink was a pilot and was tired of putting his plane down in a pasture that had to be buzzed before each landing to clear the sheep from the runway. In the winter, there was no way to get to the runway at all because the creek would flood. So the family, with partners Bates and Rawles, built the airport and subdivided the adjacent land.

After the runway was built, the Anderson Valley High School instituted a flight program and bought a plane. It was through this program that Bill Charles earned his student pilot's license. (The program was later terminated and, though attempts were made, never reinstated due to insurance costs.)

Charles Lumber Company ran for 14 years, until the lumber business started to slow. Selling former timber land helped support the family afterward, until 1963, when Twink died of a heart attack. Bill Charles was just 12 years old. All the remaining assets were sold off, and only a few pieces of land remained – land that the family still cherishes and enjoys.

In the ensuing years, most of the family managed to remain in the valley. Margaret, Norman and Bill stayed in the house built for them in 1950. Homer moved to Reno, and passed away in 1986. Margaret Charles lived in Anderson Valley until she died in 1996.

Norman Charles graduated with a degree in business from the University of California, Berkeley, and in the ensuing years lived in Sonoma County, back in Anderson Valley, and finally in Sedona, Ariz. He passed away in 1999 from stomach cancer. One of his daughters and several children and grandchildren still live in Anderson Valley.

Bill Charles graduated from Anderson Valley High School, earned a degree in physical science from Chico State University, then married Nancy Wilson and moved back to the family land in Boonville.

After their return, Bill and Nancy got very involved in agriculture and farming, as well as in wine. They also started a family of their own – Matt, Kristy and Tim were born between 1978 and 1986. All three grew up and attended school in Anderson Valley, then moved out of the area for college.

Charles Vineyard was planted in 2001 — a marriage between the family's love of wine and agriculture.

In 2007, Kristy Charles moved back to Anderson Valley with her husband, Joe Webb. They are raising their son, Evan, born in 2015, in her childhood home. Bill and Nancy now live in Bill's childhood home.

Together, Bill, Nancy, Kristy and Joe started Foursight Wines – a small, family owned and operated winery founded with the goal of showcasing the best of Anderson Valley fruit and preserving this beautiful land in the wilds of Mendocino County. Hopefully, in the process, it will enable future generations of the Charles family to return to Anderson Valley and enjoy its beauty and their heritage.

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FOURSIGHT WINES

OUR TEAM



KRISTY CHARLES

Kristy is the fourth generation of the Charles family to live on the family land outside of the town of Boonville. From early childhood, she took every advantage of living in the country, raising 4-H animals, riding and showing horses and more. Working on the family's ranch was just a part of life. She met Joe Webb, her future husband and Foursight's winemaker, her first week in college, and together they explored wine country both near and far. Upon graduation, she worked at several tasting rooms, followed by public relations positions at The MacKenzie Agency and Wilson Daniels. Part of the U.C. Davis winemaking extension program steered her firmly toward traditionally produced wines. While running Foursight, Kristy has worked with and served as president at the Anderson Valley Winegrowers Association.

JOE WEBB

Raised in the eastern Sierra Nevada mountains, Joe grew up far from wine country but close to nature. College brought him to San Luis Obispo and to his future life. Having fallen in love with Kristy and wine, Joe transferred to Sonoma State and completed their wine business program, while working at Sebastiani and Landmark Vineyards. After graduation, he became Assistant Winemaker and Direct Sales Manager at Joseph Swan Vineyards, where he worked until Kristy & Joe moved to Anderson Valley to start Foursight Wines. Joe worked as the GM and Managing Partner at Londer Vineyards, then came home full-time to Foursight.

WILLIAM CHARLES

William Charles was born and raised in Anderson Valley, on the family property that now houses Charles Vineyard and Foursight Wines. He met his wife, Nancy, in college, and they moved back to Boonville after graduation. They grew fruit, vegetables and hay, and raised Black Angus cattle and three children. Bill owned William Charles Construction for many years, and when he decided to retire from the business, he and Nancy planted Charles Vineyard. He is now a full-time, hands-on farmer, tending to the day-to-day needs of the vineyard.

NANCY CHARLES

Nancy was raised in Oakland and England, as her father was an engineer for Kaiser Engineers. She met Bill in college, and moved to the bustling town of Boonville. She worked as a nurse until their second child was born, then she transitioned to full-time motherhood and farm life. She helped manage William Charles Construction, and now works their Charles Vineyard. She can be found with her earphones in, listening to public radio, while tucking, tying, suckering, etc. Her fruit has been sourced by Foursight, Schramsberg, Copain, Papapietro Perry, The Withers and Pangloss Cellars, among others.

EVAN WEBB

The fifth generation on the property, Evan is the current morale manager and mayhem producer at Foursight Wines. Harvest 2018 marked his first vintage as a winemaker: he produced a small batch of orange wine from our estate-grown Semillon.

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