

TURNBULL

TURNBULL WINE CELLARS THE EVOLUTION OF EXCELLENCE

In the world of fine wine, excellence is not measured in a single vintage. It is a goal to be continually strived for, taking decades to achieve. Over the course of more than 40 years, Turnbull Wine Cellars has evolved from being one of Oakville's first wineries of the modern era to becoming one of its most revered producers of Cabernet Sauvignon. As a small, independent winery, the roots of Turnbull's winemaking philosophy can be found in its four renowned estate vineyards, and its four-decade commitment to making estate-grown wines. Located on some of the most coveted land in Oakville and Calistoga, Turnbull's historic mountain and valley-floor vineyards span more than 150 acres of vines, and are the foundation of the winery. Guided by fourteenth generation winegrower Peter Heitz, and one of the most passionate and accomplished vineyard teams in Napa Valley, Turnbull is dedicated to crafting small-production, terroir-driven expressions of Cabernet Sauvignon, as well as exceptional Merlot, Petit Verdot, Cabernet Franc and Sauvignon Blanc.

In 1979, years before Oakville would earn its status as an American Viticultural Area, Turnbull was founded when attorney Reverdy Johnson and famed architect William Turnbull acquired a historic 20-acre vineyard and farm in the Oakville winegrowing region. That same year, Turnbull was officially bonded and produced its debut vintage of wine—a stately and sophisticated Cabernet Sauvignon made from the Turnbull Home Ranch Vineyard. Over the next decade, Turnbull continued to produce estate-grown wines showcasing the terroir of Oakville, and the winery's Home Ranch. During this period, William Turnbull—the architect for California's iconic Sea Ranch—applied his talents to create a beautiful and welcoming home for Turnbull, designing a series of modern barns that elegantly anticipated the clean, rustic style that has come to define Napa Valley.

In 1993, Turnbull was acquired by vineyard owner and newspaper publisher Patrick O'Dell. A lifelong wine lover, Patrick incorporated his famed high-elevation Leopoldina Vineyard (formerly the Weitz Vineyard) into Turnbull's estate program. He also acquired the acclaimed Fortuna Vineyard, which was first planted in the 1890s by the Christian brothers, giving Turnbull three renowned estate properties—and more than 100 acres of vines—in Oakville. In the years since, Oakville has become world famous for its extraordinary Cabernet Sauvignons, and is home to many of the New World's most celebrated wineries, including Dalla Valle, Harlan Estate and Screaming Eagle.

As the reputation of Oakville has evolved, so has Turnbull. In 2007, fourteenth generation winegrower Peter Heitz was appointed as only the third winemaker in the winery's history. Together, Patrick, Peter and Turnbull's talented team began driving a vineyard-driven renaissance at the winery. They adopted the finest viticultural practices, while also guiding key replantings throughout the estate program, which had grown to include the mountainous Amoenus Vineyard in Calistoga.

“It was a defining moment for Turnbull,” says Peter. “With four remarkable vineyards on some of the most cherished land in Napa Valley, Patrick had established an unrivaled estate program for a small winery. As winemaker, my goal was to ensure that everything we did in the vineyards and the

winery shone a spotlight on the depth and diversity of these extraordinary sites.” To achieve this goal, Turnbull significantly decreased production and began working in ever-smaller lots, with the winemaking team often doing as many as 90 small-lot fermentations each vintage. Peter also focused on Turnbull’s cooperage program, matching each lot of wine with the ideal barrel. “We tailor each barrel choice to the character of the vintage, and to accentuate the uniqueness of our vineyards,” says Peter. In turn, this gives the team a remarkably diverse palate of wines to work with when it comes time for blending.

Today, Turnbull’s wines have emerged as some of the most authentic and impressive expressions of vineyard-driven winemaking in Napa Valley. At the same time, Turnbull has quietly earned a reputation among collectors as one of Oakville’s defining wineries and one of Napa Valley’s hidden gems. “The greatest wines tell the story of a special piece of land and a moment in time,” says Peter. “They also reflect the relationship between a vineyard and the people who are its stewards. We have been farming our vineyards for decades. They are the essence of Turnbull. So, when we make our wines, we do so with integrity and respect—there are no shortcuts, no compromises—just a belief that if we let the vineyards speak, they will tell a fascinating story.”