



While the story of Clos du Val is rich in history, and follows the rise of Napa Valley as one of the world's preeminent winegrowing regions, it is also a living story that is still being written. Guided by an acclaimed team that includes third-generation owner Olav Goelet and CEO Mike Holden, Clos du Val has experienced a renaissance in every facet of the winery. This period of revitalization started with the 2012 vintage, when Clos du Val began a vibrant and vineyard-driven stylistic shift for its wines. It continued in the 2014 vintage, when Clos du Val began focusing almost exclusively on making estate-grown wines, with an emphasis on the exceptional Stags Leap District Cabernet Sauvignons that first catapulted Clos du Val to fame.

Clos du Val was founded by the Goelet family in 1972, an era that wine writer Hugh Johnson referred to as "the turning point in modern wine history." 1972 saw the founding of a who's who of California's most iconic wineries, and in the history of North American winemaking, the Cabernet producers of 1972 are legendary. It was a dynamic time, filled with energy and innovation that laid the foundation for Napa Valley's rise to global prominence. Two years before, the family tasked talented French-born winemaker Bernard Portet with finding vineyard land capable of producing a world-class Cabernet Sauvignon. After traveling to five continents, this search brought Bernard to the Stags Leap District in Napa Valley, where perfect daytime weather, cool nights and ideal soils yield Cabernet Sauvignons of uncommon power and elegance.

In 1972, Clos du Val acquired 150 acres of estate vineyards in the heart of the Stags Leap District, and made its first wines, including Clos du Val's legendary debut 1972 Cabernet Sauvignon — one of only six California Cabernets selected for the famous 1976 Judgment of Paris Tasting, where California defeated some of Bordeaux's finest. Ten years later, Clos du Val's reputation for creating some of Napa Valley's most gracefully age-worthy wines was solidified when its 1972 Cabernet Sauvignon took first place in the Judgment of Paris rematch.

Under third-generation owner Olav Goelet's direction, Clos du Val has instituted numerous changes, all with the goal of achieving the utmost quality. This includes restoring and modernizing the winery, harvesting later to achieve optimal ripeness, reducing crop yields, increasing dappled sunlight in the vine canopy, enhancing soil fertility, adding cold soaks to the Cabernet program to increase color and aromatics, instituting earlier pumpovers to create greater tannin integration, utilizing new filtration methods to limit oxidation, and revamping the barrel program to focus on only the best coopers — all to preserve vineyard character, while adding nuance and silky textural elements.