

# Virginia: The Next Frontier in Fine American Wine

## Past

The history of Virginia's winemaking roots stretch as far back as 1607, when Jamestown colonists made wine from the native grapes that grew wild in the area. The next phase of note was thanks to one of the most famous presidents in American history, Thomas Jefferson. Having traveled extensively to France and Germany during his ambassadorship to France in 1784-1789, he developed a passion for wine and believed that America could produce wines of equal quality to Europe. He sent many vine clippings back home to Virginia and planted over 24 varieties. Unfortunately for Jefferson, the native European vines (*vitis vinifera*) were not resistant to the native American diseases and pests and the vines were destroyed before they were able to produce any wine.

Still, Jefferson has been described as America's "first distinguished viticulturist" and "the greatest patron of wine and winegrowing that this country has yet had." In fact, he was such an enthusiastic consumer, that his wine bill upon leaving the presidency exceeded \$10,000!

*"We could in the United States make as great a variety of wines as are made in Europe, not exactly of the same kinds, but doubtless as good."*

– Thomas Jefferson

*"The greatest service which can be rendered any country is to add a useful plant to its culture."*

– Thomas Jefferson

## Present

In the last 25 years, Virginia has become the fifth largest wine producing state in the nation with over 75 wineries that are winning national and international acclaim. Virginia is a burgeoning wine region with immense growth opportunity as there are still vast amounts of undeveloped land between vineyards, unlike much of the New World. There is also the excitement of experimenting with different types of grape varieties and technologies to discover which best suits the Virginia's unique terroir.

*Quotes have been verified and sources are available on request.*

## **Kluge's Unique Virginia Terroir**

The soil at Kluge Estate is similar to that of Bordeaux with the red clay, sandy-clay, limestone and gravel. Kluge Estate's location on the Carter's Mountain chain protects it from winds, rain and frost, and creates natural drainage and southeast orientation for the vines, allowing for an ideal grape growing environment.

*"As the most promising wine growing region in the United States after Napa Valley."*

- Hugh Johnson

## **Future**

The future of wine production in Virginia is looking brighter than ever. Kluge Estate is pioneering the region's development with a highly specialized winemaking team, the latest state-of-the-art technology and high quality standards. With continued dedication to quality and growth, Virginia is developing into an influential and important U.S. winemaking region.

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