

NAPA VALLEY *life* MAGAZINE



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Napa Valley's Best Equestrian Winery Experiences

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Shadybrook Estate at Rapp Ranch

www.shadybrookestate.com

Just a few miles away from the bustle of downtown Napa, nestled in the foothills of the Vacas

Range, Napa Valley opens its kimono to the quiet grace of Coombsville. With sprawling acreage home to vineyards, farms, ranches and a peppering of multi generation residential communities, Coombsville is one of Napa Valley's hidden treasures. Having received its AVA designation in 2011, it is becoming one of Napa's most sought after regions for wineries to establish a footing both as a premier location to produce grapes and to open space to welcome visitors.

Shadybrook Estate Winery at Rapp Ranch, formally known as Chateau Lane Winery, was purchased in February 2016 by real estate developer and wine producing husband and wife team, David and Alice Alkossler. The 25 acre parcel came with 12 acres of planted vineyards, a state of the art production facility and a sprawling view of the majestic Coombsville hillsides. The acreage offered the Alkossler's a unique opportunity to produce their award winning wines harvested from the Estate grapes from these vineyards and their 156 acre property in Popes Valley. The Chateau Lane property had an intriguing neighbor in Rapp Ranch, which was renowned in the 80's and 90's for its reputation in breeding and training quarter horses. The property contained barns, riding areas, and outdoor training corrals.

The Alkossers, enchanted by the history of the ranch, the premium vineyards, and state of the art winery, incorporated the unique hallmarks of each element and created a collection of distinct and memorable experiences.

The Ultimate Ranch experience offers visitors a unique Napa winery adventure from a ranchers perspective...on horseback. Prospective riders are escorted to the stables to meet Cash, Whiskey, Silverado, Pancho, or Wizard, and fitted for boots, riding helmets and then saddled up for a 30 minute guided trail tour of the property. Some of the equines were rescued from stressful environments, and appreciate their new responsibilities as noble steeds. The trails



through the vineyards offer riders magnificent views of the hillsides of Coombsville and Vacas Range.

The tours conclude with a relaxed tasting seated on the 4000 sq foot terrace patio overlooking the vineyards and lavender gardens. Guests are offered four estate wines produced under the winemaking mastery of Rudy Zuidema which include current releases of Shadybrook Estate and Rapp Ranch vintages. Selections may consist of Estate Cabernet Sauvignon and Cab blends, Pinot Noir, a Sauvignon Platine Blanc or Estate Chardonnay. Extensions of the Ultimate experience include a Romance theme, sunset tours, private tours of the winery, a chance to meet the winemaker, barrel sampling and a private view in the winemaker's lounge.

Forthcoming developments on the Ranch include the build out of the Olympic caliber equestrian center, boarding facilities and dressage training program.

Tours and tastings last 60 minutes to 2 1/2 hours and are available by appointment.