

Shannon Ridge acquires Rolling Knolls Vineyard

Contributed by Editor
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CLEARLAKE OAKS ‐ Shannon Ridge Vineyards and Winery in Lake County has acquired the picturesque Rolling Knolls vineyard in the town of Lower Lake.

The property includes approximately 240 acres of vineyards, two small cottages and an old walnut dehydrator structure, which will be converted into a tasting room, wine shop and gourmet deli.

Clay Shannon of Shannon Ridge acquired the Rolling Knolls vineyard from the Greer family of Fremont, who owned the property since 1992. The vineyard is planted with Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Zinfandel, Merlot, Petit Verdot, Malbec, Petite Sirah and Sauvignon Blanc, which Shannon will farm and plans to sell to selected wineries.

The Shannon Ridge wine brand is quickly expanding and increasing its production and fruit from the Rolling Knolls vineyard will be sourced for future vintages of the Shannon Ridge wines. The property backs up to the Anderson Marsh wetlands and park, which is public land owned by the state of California and accessible to visitors.

Additionally, Shannon Ridge has plans to develop the property into a mixed use facility for visitors to Lake County. The winery is working with St. Helena-based architect Carlo Di Fede with Triad Design Studio on plans for an old-world style community to include a rustic tasting room, picnic facilities and dining patios, private guest cottages, a stone chapel, recreational grounds, hiking trails, and public restrooms.

The area will be a destination location that will offer wine tasting, relaxation, beautiful views, and public services. Also, Shannon is working with the planning commission to develop plans for a new winery on the property.

Clay Shannon's vision for the development project is based on the European communal vineyard concept, similar to those found in Burgundy and Piedmont. Once the development project is complete, the vineyards will be separated by unique rock walls and meandering paths throughout the property.

“I want to create an old-world experience in wine country, just two and a half hours north of the San Francisco Bay Area,” said Shannon. “This will be a destination location for wine aficionados, outdoor recreation enthusiasts, and nature lovers. My goal is to preserve that land while offering visitors a unique experience in Lake County.”

In June 2007, Shannon Ridge Winery opened its renovated tasting room facility in a historic one room school house in on Highway 20 in Clearlake Oaks. Adjacent to the tasting room, the winery also completed the construction of a demonstration “vinegarden” and picnic table, which allows visitors to relax in a park-like setting while enjoying the Shannon Ridge wines.

For more information, please visit www.shannonridge.com or call 998-9656.

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