

VIRGINIA DARE WINERY

FACT SHEET



Virginia Dare Winery

22281 Chianti Road
Geyserville, CA 95441
Phone: 707-735-3500

Website:

www.VirginiaDareWinery.com

Directions

US Highway 101,
Exit Canyon Road

Tours & Tastings

Open to the public daily
11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Find us Online



Media Contacts:

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Proprietors

Francis & Eleanor Coppola

Chief Executive Officer

Steve Spadarotto

President & Director of Winemaking

Corey Beck

Winemaker

Sandy Walheim

OVERVIEW

The revitalized Virginia Dare Winery, unveiled September 24, 2015, celebrates the genesis of American winemaking. Along with the spellbinding Virginia Dare story, it pays homage to the mythical and mysterious characters which grace the labels of the Legends: The White Doe, Two Arrowheads, Manteo, and The Lost Colony, as well as the Showcase Wines of Virginia Dare.

“The myth of Virginia Dare always intrigued me, and as a child I remember the Virginia Dare wine because of the pretty blonde girl on the label and the ‘Say it again, Virginia Dare’ [jingle](#) they used to advertise on the radio,” said Francis Coppola. “My goal is to revive the wine brand so that it isn’t lost to future generations. The winery’s new home in Geyserville is the ideal location in the heart of American wine country to tell the origin stories of American wine.”

HISTORY

Virginia Dare was the first English child born in the New World to colonists in 1587. Virginia’s fate became a mystery after her colony, now referred to as the Lost Colony, vanished from Roanoke Island in the late 1500s. Legend has it that she lived among the Native Americans and grew into a beautiful young woman trapped in the middle of a tragic love triangle when she was turned into a White Doe and ultimately killed. On the very spot where she bled and died, a grapevine sprouted with its fruit stained red. According to the legend, this is how the white wine of America became red wine. The grapevine is widely believed to be the 400-year old Mother Vine, reportedly the oldest cultivated grapevine in North America which still exists today -- a clipping of which will soon be planted in Virginia Dare Winery’s estate vineyard.

The story of the Virginia Dare Winery started when two businessmen known as the Garrett brothers purchased North Carolina’s Medoc Vineyard, which was the state’s first commercial winery started in 1835.

The business eventually became Garrett & Company, producing the Virginia Dare wines which quickly became one of the nation's top selling wines. With the start of Prohibition in 1919, Garrett & Company was forced to move, first to Brooklyn, New York, and then to Cucamonga, California, where the business transformed into the Virginia Dare Winery. It was one of the first wineries to sell wine after the repeal of Prohibition in 1933 and was considered a booming business for much of the late 40s and 50s, but eventually saw turmoil and nearly faded into history. Francis Coppola's goal, as told in an NBC-TV [TODAY show interview](#) during the unveiling of the winery name on September 24, 2015, is to revive the wine brand so that it isn't lost to future generations

WINES

Crafted with grapes from the finest viticulture regions in California, Virginia Dare wines are rich with characteristics befitting an American legend: Pure. Natural. Distinctive.

Showcase Wines

- VIRGINIA DARE CHARDONNAY is the culmination of the White Doe's captivating mythology. A wine crafted with superlative quality, the Virginia Dare Chardonnay is sourced from Russian River Valley, and is an elegant representation of the cool climate region known for seasonal fog and exceptional growing seasons. Aged the classic way for 12 months in French oak, the debut vintage of the 2014 Russian River Chardonnay delivers both intensity and density, expressing superlative American craftsmanship. A luxurious, creamy texture supports tropical aromas of orange blossom, red grapefruit, Asian pear, and pineapple. Rounding out the profile are underlying flavors of toasty bread balanced with French oak. SRP \$25
- VIRGINIA DARE PINOT NOIR is another flagship selection sourced from Russian River Valley, showing an authentic representation of the Sonoma County sub-appellation's terroir where powdery clay soils and nightly blankets of fog combine to create an ideal viticulture environment for Pinot Noir. While the label evokes the vintage charm of an American classic from a bygone era, the wine boasts a round, oaky structure and elegant tannins that linger on the palate. Exotic notes of sandalwood lay the foundation for soft tones of red and black cherry, red plum, and blueberry, expressing a hint of floral violet that culminates in a concentrated, roasted finish. SRP \$25

The Legends

- THE WHITE DOE is a bright, refreshing blend of Chenin Blanc and Viognier. A harmonious marriage of flavors and textures are created, with Chenin delivering juicy flavors of white grapes, honeydew melon and bright, fresh citrus character, then layered upon Viognier's classic white peach flavors, exquisite floral notes and its nuance of tropical fruit. It's inspired by a Native American myth – the story of Virginia Dare, a beautiful maiden who was turned into a White Doe by a jealous sorcerer. Her beauty and mystique were legendary; men chased her through the forests in vain. SRP \$14.99
- MANTEO is the warrior wine – a rich blend of Sonoma County Syrah, Petit Verdot, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Cabernet Franc. The debut vintage of Manteo offers real depth, balance and rich, fragrant flavors of boysenberries, black cherries, and cassis, aromatic spices redolent of pink peppercorns and anise, and distinctive notes of earthy minerals, tobacco leaves and smoky, toasted oak. The tannins are well-integrated even in their youth and the wine's lushness leads to a long, expressive finish. Manteo is named after a legendary Native American chief known for helping the English settlers who landed at Roanoke Island in the late 1500s. He became a confidant and trusted

liaison between Native Americans and the colonists, and vowed to protect Virginia Dare, the first baby born to the colonists in the New World. SRP \$18

- TWO ARROWHEADS is a round, luscious blend of Viognier and Roussanne from Paso Robles with a beautiful perfume of white peaches, guava, orange blossom and nutmeg emerging from the glass followed by bright, juicy flavors of tropical fruit, melon, and notes of honey and vanilla. Round in texture, the palate has lushness and weight that is balanced by a refreshing vibrancy. Its name is inspired by the fate of the White Doe – two men’s enchanted arrows pierced her heart, one turning her back into a woman and the other ending her life. SRP \$18
- THE LOST COLONY is a Sonoma County red blend of primarily Syrah and Malbec, complemented with a little Cabernet Franc and Viognier. Most of the fruit is sourced from Dry Creek Valley. Rich and full bodied with bold impressions of smoke and spices. The Lost Colony offers lush flavors of red and black berries, cherries, currants, and pomegranate along with fragrant notes of cloves and pepper, plus warm nuances of tobacco leaves, lavender, earthy minerals and toasted oak. Its name is based on the mysterious disappearance of The Lost Colony of Roanoke Island, whose colonists – including Virginia Dare, the first baby born in the New World – vanished soon after arriving, leaving behind one of the great mysteries in American history. SRP \$18