



A REGION RICH IN HISTORY

The Petaluma Gap has a 150-year tradition of growing grapes and producing wine. Petaluma's first winery was founded in 1884 by G.V. Fischer, who took over an abandoned brewery to handle his first crush. There were also two wineries in the Lakeville area at that time. The largest was owned by James G. Fair — a U.S. Senator from Nevada, a famous silver baron, and the man who built the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco. By 1893, the winery had a 600,000 gallon capacity, making it one of the largest in the state. By the early 1900s there were at least 1,000 acres of grapevines. Then came the dark ages of Prohibition, made worse by California's battle with Phylloxera — a root-borne aphid that slowly kills grapevines. By the time Prohibition ended in 1933, what had been a rapidly growing industry was reduced to wreckage.

THE PETALUMA GAP TODAY

Slowly, the vines have crept back. Today's Petaluma Gap is a grower-focused region, shaped by our rich agricultural history, with vineyards often nestled in the valleys and hillsides with cattle, sheep, chickens and fruit trees. Most plantings that have propelled Petaluma Gap wines to their current levels of fame have taken place since the early 1990s. With vineyards ranging in size from backyard plots to hundreds of acres, Gap growers are dedicated to farming sustainably and many are devoted to organic viticulture. All see themselves as stewards of the land, confident that the vineyards they've planted and nurtured will endure for many generations.

