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Home & Garden Design: A joint project of the Almanac and Palo Alto Weekly

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Grape expectations

A Woodside couple created both a vineyard and a winery

by Susan Golovin / photos by Dasja Dolan

First there is the getting there. Chaine D'Or Vineyard is located off Highway 84, close to Skyline Boulevard. Traveling the twisty mountain road through redwood forests you cannot help but wonder about the view from the top. As you pull into owners' Jerry and Anne Anderson's driveway you know you will not be disappointed.

When Jerry Anderson, a computer scientist and former president of Valid Logic retired in 1987, the 31/2 acres abutting his property became available. He and his wife Anne, a graphics designer, decided to purchase the land.



"We didn't want to build a great big house here," Anne says, gesturing towards the sweeping views of redwoods. Instead, they decided to capitalize on Jerry's love of farming and his scientific bent, and Anne's discriminating palate. They planted grapes. They also did a lot of research and received assistance from local vintners whom they credit as being tremendously generous with good advice.

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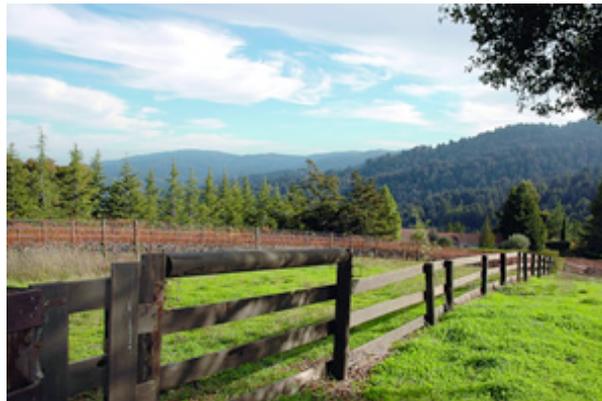
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"But mostly we learned by doing," Jerry says.



"It takes three years for the vines to mature, so we had time to prepare," Anne says. "First, we had to figure out what to do with the grapes." They started construction on the underground 1,100-square-foot wine cellar, which now houses a fermentation tank, press and holding tanks as well as the French oak barrels in which the wine is aged.

"If we hadn't needed a

wine cellar, I wouldn't have gotten my brand-new kitchen. The blessings are manifold," Anne says. She is referring to the 1,100-square-foot addition that also encompasses the entry way, dining and living rooms, which was built on top of the wine cellar. Originally, the home was 3,000 square feet.



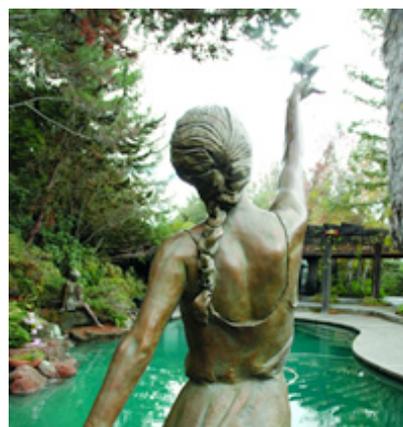
The most striking aspect of the upstairs addition is the panoramic view. Western facing floor-to-ceiling casement windows overlook Jasper Ridge, Palo Alto and beyond. Such landmarks as the Stanford Linear Accelerator and Hoover Tower appear like game pieces. The windows are enhanced by "outdoor curtains" -- Roger's red ornamental vines that turn bright red in the fall.

Twelve-inch-square French tiles in the public rooms are practical for muddy boots and also don't distract from the view. "I didn't want a 'Mop and Glow' look," Anne says, explaining how she used a special pigment to give the tiles a distressed, dull look.



The fireplace, originally the outside chimney, is fashioned after a traditional Southwestern Indian kiva, used for cooking. "You can see the reflection of the fire in all the windows," Jerry says. The once-outside, now-inside charcoal grill with an adjustable cooking surface is on the opposite side of the fireplace, off the entrance.

The mood of the wine cellar, and its decorative themes -- such as iron -- permeates the upstairs: Iron adorns the front door, and an iron chandelier greets you as you enter. A black walnut slab table in the entryway is supported by an iron framework. An ornamental iron door that Jerry describes as "going nowhere" -- it actually opens to the bedroom/den area -- is used for rustic effect.



The updated kitchen, with its cathedral

ceiling and granite counters has archways that take advantage of the view. It is often the site for wine tastings.



"People come here from the Ritz Hotel because they want to visit a vineyard, but they don't want to commute to Napa," Jerry says.

Goal of project: Excavate and build wine cellar; build upper addition to house

Problem: Due to soil erosion, could grade steep land in the winter; entire project was dependent on finishing grading by November.

Year house built: 1959

Budget: Several hundred thousand dollars

Size of project: 2,200 sq. ft.

Time to complete: 11/4 years

"If you think of Fogarty as a large hotel, we are more like a bed and breakfast," he explains. "We only make wine from our own grapes, and we produce about a thousand gallons [500 cases]. Except for harvest and pruning, we do everything ourselves."

Chaine D'Or is one of the more than 40 wineries in the Santa Cruz Mountain Range, which stretches from Half Moon

Bay to Watsonville. The Andersons are justifiably proud of the Silver Medal awarded their Cabernet at a recent Santa Cruz Country Fair.

Resources:

Architect: Walter Chapman, Chapman Design Associates, Los Altos Hills, (650) 941-6890

Contractor: Bruce Chadbourne, Skywood Builders, Los Altos, (650) 948-3384

Interior designer: Anne Darville, Anville Design, Half Moon Bay, (650) 712-0170

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