

## Chaine D'Or Vineyards

Woodside, CA  
Phone: (650) 851-8977  
Annual Production: 500 cases  
Winemaker: Anne Anderson  
Winery Owners: Jerry and Anne Anderson

### Access

Open by appointment only

### Tastings

No tasting fee  
Tours available by appointment only  
Wines: Chardonnay, Bordeaux blend

Sales of wine-related items? No

### Picnics and Programs

Participates in Santa Cruz Mountains Winegrowers Association events

## Chaine D'Or Vineyards

When Anne Anderson emigrated from Britain, she brought a great love of vineyards and wine. So, when her husband, Jerry, needed something that would help reduce stress and provide more exercise, she suggested planting grapes. In 1987 they put in two acres of vines: Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon with small amounts of Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petite Verdot for blending.

Since Jerry had a farming and ranching background from his youth in Texas, he was put in charge of the vineyard. "I'm better at driving tractors and pruning," he says. As he goes about his tasks with the help of the vineyard dog, Jesse, Jerry enjoys a view of the vineyard which also provides great beauty. On a sunny day, the San Francisco Bay is spread out below and the fog folds into the mountains surrounding the vineyard.

Anne says, "just smaller." She also notes that the winery looks glamorous, but requires a lot of cleaning, and the only way to clean the press is to get inside it.

The Andersons make the decision to pick grapes based on sugar, but sugar content is determined by tasting as well as looking at brix. According to Anne, the sugar of a ripe grape tells you that there's no kind of waiting allowed -- you need to pick it right at that moment.

The couple decided to name their winery after the historic name for the east side of the Santa Cruz Mountains, *Chaine D'Or* (golden chain). Following some negotiations with a French winery also called, *Chaine D'Or*, the winery was bonded in 1990. Their fee for the use of the name? They have to send two cases of the wine to France every vintage.



Jesse in the Chaine D'Or Vineyard

Anne is in charge of the winery. "She has a good palate," Jerry says, although according to Anne, learning to make wine wasn't always a smooth progression. Jerry had the scientific background; they took some courses at UC Davis and acquired some books on viticulture and winemaking. As always in the mountains, they received help from local vineyard owners.

There was also the matter of the tools required to make wine. "We need the same equipment as a large winery,"

Anne and Jerry Anderson enjoy the Santa Cruz Mountains winemaking. "There's a fraternity that doesn't exist in many other industries," Anne says. They have a passion for the process of making wine, knowing if one year isn't great, they get another chance the following year. The wine they sell to their neighbors and small stores around Woodside, reflect the love and attention Jerry and Anne pay to their grapes and the winemaking process.

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