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NEWS

Napa's Dominus Buys Yountville Ranch Vineyard from Markham

The 86-acre property neighbors Napanook Vineyard, giving Christian Moueix
200 Napa Valley acres under vine



Cherise and Christian Moueix are frequent visitors to Dominus Estate in Napa; Christian fell in love with Napa Valley as a student nearly 60 years ago. (Briana Marie Photography)



By Chris Cardoso

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Dominus Estate [<https://www.winespectator.com/wine/search?submitted=Y&page=1&winery=Dominus%20Estate>] , the Napa Valley winery owned by Bordeaux's Christian Moueix [<https://www.winespectator.com/articles/christian-moueix-the-interview-111524>] , has purchased the 86-acre Yountville Ranch Vineyard from Markham Vineyards [<https://www.winespectator.com/wine/search?submitted=Y&page=1&winery=Markham>] , next door to Dominus' Napanook vineyard. Neither party disclosed a purchase price.

Moueix told *Wine Spectator* that despite the current challenges facing the wine industry, he believes strongly in Napa wine's future. "Usually I'm not that optimistic for business, but I'm optimistic. First, we love the *terroir* of our vineyard. We know the *terroir* next door is about the same."

The vineyard consists of two parcels located north of Napanook. Dominus will **begin farming the vineyard** [<https://www.winespectator.com/video/play/id/XNjdeogt/title/in-the->

vineyard-at-dominus-dry-farming-with-tod-mostero] after the 2025 harvest is complete, and Moueix expects to replant.

Started in 1983, Dominus makes three wines

[<https://www.winespectator.com/articles/the-evolution-of-dominus-estate-113022>] from its estate property in Yountville. There are currently 103 acres planted to vines at the Napanook vineyard. In 2008, Moueix purchased a 40-acre Oakville property from Clark Swanson, renaming it Ulysses.

Yountville Ranch Vineyard lies between the two properties, giving Dominus more than 200 acres under vine in one stretch straddling the western side of Yountville and Oakville. Currently, Dominus makes 5,000 to 7,000 cases of wine per year.

Napanook vineyard is planted primarily to Cabernet Sauvignon, with 90 percent of the vineyard dedicated to the variety. About 5 percent each of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot round out the remaining plantings. The new property is planted mostly to Merlot, and Moueix hopes to expand his Cabernet Franc plantings, though no decisions have been made yet.

“Slowly but surely we have gotten rid of [our] Merlot,” he told *Wine Spectator*. “We are inheriting Merlots from [Markham]. We would like to