Wooden Valley

Wooden Valley is a small, almost round valley, approximately two miles wide at its widest point and located 9 miles northeast of the town of Napa within the Napa Valley appellation. Formed by volcanic activity, Wooden Valley boasts a number of soil types and a rolling topography. It is reached by driving a winding mountain road that was originally carved into what was called Napa Mountain by Chinese laborers in 1800's. Wooden



Valley is bordered by the Vaca Range to the east and "Napa Mountain" to the west.

The warm summer days in Wooden Valley are cooled by dramatic fog banks that pour over the palisades and mid-afternoon breezes, which can produce temperatures as much as 10 degrees lower than the Napa Valley average resulting in a long growing season.

In 1985, the Altamuras began planting 65 acres of their 400 acre ranch to vineyards with a clear emphasis on Cabernet Sauvignon. The five main soil types on the Ranch lay the foundation for six distinctive Cabernet Sauvignon vineyards varying in texture and flavor profiles all of which are blended into one wine. Also planted are Sangiovese, Nebbiolo and Sauvignon Blanc in optimal soils for each varietal. Altamura's vineyards sit at an elevation range of 800 to 1,000 feet.

Wooden Valley was named for John Wooden, a giant among men at 6'8" tall, who purchased the area in 1852 from Jose Ignacio Berryessa and became its first resident owner. Originally from Virginia, Wooden traveled west in a wagon train that embarked from Missouri in 1846 and ended up in Oregon. Interestingly, a portion of this same group became the ill-fated Donner Party.

Today, Wooden Valley is reminiscent of an earlier age where cattle roamed the hillsides, orchards, grain and hay grew in the fertile soil and the children were educated in a one-room schoolhouse. Wine grapes were planted in 1905 but pulled out thirty years later during the Great Depression.