

Delta Wine Tasting

Bogle, Scribner Bend & Six Hands

Story & Photos by Jan Vick

Since the Gold Rush, the Delta soil has nurtured a rich agricultural heritage. Over the years the crops grown have varied. Where tomatoes once thrived, it is now common to see field after field of wine grapes, producing some of the best wines in California.

Three wineries epitomize the growth of the wine industry in the Delta.

Bogle Winery

The largest is Bogle Winery just south of Clarksburg nestled by Elk Slough west of the Sacramento River. Bogle is a family operation spanning six generations of farming. The first vineyard of 8 acres was planted in 1968 and now grows Petite Sirah,



Bogle Winery

Chardonnay and Merlot grapes on 110 acres surrounding the winery, tasting room and picnic area. A majority of the grapes come from several vineyards in the Delta. Bogle also sources grapes from Lodi, El Dorado and Amador counties, all known for their Zinfandel, Merlot, Syrah and lesser known grapes used for blending. Other sources include the Russian River, Mendocino, Monterey and Oakley, assuring a rich fusion of flavors. Bogle prides itself on growing sustainably and 62% of their grapes are in the Certified Green Program. Vineyards and wineries in the program take a stewardship approach, integrating holistic and environmental management practices into every step of the growing and winemaking process.

Bogle's tasting room is located on Yolo County Road 144, off South River Road. The shaded picnic area begs the visitor to buy a bottle and spend some quiet time soaking up the ambiance of the vineyards. The tasting room is open 7 days a week. Find them at www.boglewinery.com.

Scribner Bend Vineyards

In 1893, George Scribner began farming at a bend in the Sacramento River south of Freeport, which became known as "Scribner Bend."

The winemaking evolved from their farming experience. Now Scribner Bend Vineyards grows 60 acres of estate wine grapes.



Scribner Bend Vineyards

A barrel and crushing facility was added in 2007. The historic 1918 barn has been transformed into the tasting room, a meeting space, bridal loft and offices. The site now includes a 50' x 60' tent with chandeliers and a fireplace for weddings and events.

Scribner Bend creates some unique and delicious wines, including Black Hat Tempranillo, a rich red that pairs perfectly with barbeque meats. Their Pinot Grigio is a rich fruit dominant white wine; the bottle is graced with a Delta painting by renowned Sacramento artist Gregory Kondos. Scribner Bend also produces a sparkling, pleasingly sweet, almond wine. Their tasting room is open Fridays through Sundays 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Find them at www.scribnerbend.com.

Six Hands Winery

The third winery has deep roots in the Delta and Rio Vista. The Marks family has been farming and making wine for more than 100 years. As an interesting local note, the Trilogy subdivision outside of Rio Vista is built on the old Marks Ranch and the old farmhouse is on Highway 12 near Church Road. In the beginning of the 20th century Joseph Machado first farmed along the Sacramento River near Walnut Grove where the winery is now located. Joseph's great-great-grandson Peter Marks was inspired to learn the family secrets of winemaking. In 1994,



Six Hands Winery

Syrah and Viognier grapes were planted at the home ranch. Six Hands Winery was launched in 1997 by Peter, his wife Richele and his father Norman. Now, the entire family is involved in creating their fine boutique wines. The Delta microclimate is ideal for growing grapes, with its warm temperatures drawing the cool breezes from the Pacific. As Delta farmers, Six Hands is committed to sustainable farming and preserving the land, along with their growing partners in the Delta and Lodi. The winery produces 16 small batch blends from 11 varietals.

Taste Six Hands wines at Wine Social located at 7 North School Street in Lodi. See www.winesocial.com for hours. The winery hosts several events per year at the winery near Walnut Grove at 13783 Isleton Road. These include a Picnic in the Vineyard in June and chocolate/wine pairings in the spring. Find them at www.sixhandswinery.com.

This is just a small sample of wine tasting options in the Delta. Drive the road on both sides of the Sacramento River between Rio Vista, Clarksburg and Freeport to experience the rich agricultural heritage that is the Delta.