

# ROBERT SINSKEY

## ‘Top 25 Wineries’

- San Francisco Chronicle 2023

## ‘Top Napa Wineries’

- San Francisco Chronicle 2024

**Year Founded:** 1988

**Region:** Napa, California

**Owners:** Robert Sinskey & Maria Helm Sinskey

**Winemaker:** Robert Sinskey & Jeff Virnig

**Known for:** The winery uses solar cells to power the majority of the winery operations and even brews their own biodiesel (from used restaurant oil) for use in their trucks and tractors.

**Cool Fact:** Robert Sinskey Vineyards practices the "whole farm" philosophy of interrelationships based on Rudolph Steiner's 1928 lecture "Agriculture". This approach stresses the need to heal damage done by modern, mechanized farming.

**-Biodynamic, Certified Organic, Sustainable-**

Meet Robert Sinskey, the man behind some of the most prized Pinot Noirs in California wine country. At his namesake organic and biodynamic winery, Robert Sinskey Vineyards, he and his wife, Chef Maria Helm Sinskey, bring food and wine together celebrating the connection to the land and creating a unique culinary experience.



Since the 1980s, Robert Sinskey Vineyards has been known for producing quieter, more restrained wines than what's typical in Napa Valley. Although the winery and tasting room were located in the Stags Leap District, in the heart of the valley, the wines were made mostly from grapes grown in Carneros, the coolest area of Napa, abutting the San Pablo Bay. Rob Sinskey, who took over the winery after his father founded it, developed a reputation for delicate red wines, like Pinot Noir and Cabernet Franc, plus unconventional whites. In early 2023 Robert Sinskey purchased additional land in Carneros giving them 84 contiguous acres; this property is called the Wildling Ranch. Their transition to both a winery and a hospitality space is a return to their original geographical Napa Valley roots. The Sinskey's practice regenerative farming on the property and maintain orchards, a variety of crops and will be raising farm animals. The site is home to a large Heron rookery and is on the path for transitory mountain lions. It also contains two ponds. The property is entirely powered by solar and all farm implements are electrically operated including their tractors (Monarch). While it was sad to let go of the original Sinskey Winery, this is the next chapter of the Robert Sinskey story and it is an exciting one. While remaining a commercial enterprise they will do so in harmony with the surrounding natural environment.

## 2018 Pinot Noir, Los Carneros



An amazing wine for its depth, complexity and structure. The long, cool growing season rendered beautiful, evenly-ripened Pinot Noir with mouth-watering acidity and firm, longevity-assuring tannins. This cuvée includes 22 individually fermented and barreled lots from RSV's organically farmed Carneros vineyards, selected from thirteen heirloom selections and French clones of Pinot Noir. The wine is framed by small oak casks (30% new) selected from seven French coopers and aged in the RSV caves for a year.

An elegant, classic Pinot Noir with a slow reveal that gets better with each taste. A superb growing season resulted in pristine fruit at optimal ripeness from RSV's organically farmed vineyards. Beautiful aromatics, deliciously complex fruit and spice notes with a youthful vivaciousness make for a perfectly balanced wine. Aromas and flavors of fresh rose petal, lilac and sage sit atop cranberry, Bing cherry, strawberry, blood orange and rhubarb while savory herb, cinnamon and earth notes add a baseline of depth. Pristine and alive, this wine has a beautifully long and vibrant finish. A perfect dinner companion now and for years to come.

## 2018 'POV' Red Wine, Los Carneros



The foothills of the Mayacamas has a band of red volcanic soil that runs through the Cabernet Franc of RSV's organically farmed Vandal Vineyard. This red soil has a cult following among the growers and vintners of the region and is known for producing some of the most expressive, well-balanced Cabernet Francs on planet Earth. The old Franc vines carry small clusters of beautiful grapes that hang on the vine until late in the season to be picked at optimal ripeness with lower sugar levels than other Napa "Bordeaux" varieties. Blended with the bright and vibrant Merlot from RSV's organically farmed OSR and Three Amigos Vineyards, the grapes are crushed, destemmed and undergo native yeast fermentation. Aged for two years in the RSV caves before bottling, the wine is then allowed to rest for two more years before release.

New World precision meets Old World soul for a "Right Bank" of Napa claret with unparalleled deliciousness, depth and complexity. The 2018 vintage of POV makes its presence known in an emphatic way. Summer-fresh tart Bing cherry, ripe raspberry and blackberry bramble lend a crispness from first sip to last. Secondary notes of rose petal, fresh oregano, forest floor and mocha nod to the terroir of the Mayacamas foothills in the northern reaches of Los Carneros, rich in red soil and farmed with organic, regenerative practices. The wine is framed in elegant, understated French oak with a savory core that will continue to open and evolve as the wine ages.