

## BOUCHAINE: THE OLDEST WINERY IN CARNEROS

By Esther Mobley, September 13, 2016



Bouchaine claims to be the oldest continually operating winery in Carneros. First planted to vines in the 1880s by local legend Boon Fly, the property has passed through several hands. But even its current iteration has some serious history behind it: The Copeland family, who purchased the property in 1981, were among the early planters of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay in Carneros. Today, the mid-size winery produces about 22,000 cases of wine a year.

The Bouchaine wines have gone through ups and downs over the years, but under the leadership of new winemaker Chris Kajani they're better than ever. And there are more Pinots to taste than just Noir, including bright, spritzy Pinot Blanc, melony Pinot Gris and elegant Pinot Meunier.

The tasting room is one of the only spots in the immediate area that doesn't require an appointment. It's got a casual bar for standing tastings (situated inside the gift shop) and wine club members can enjoy outdoor seating on the patio. For a more in-depth experience, you can make a reservation for a private

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tour – but Bouchaine is perhaps best enjoyed casually, walk-in-style, with its exceedingly friendly and impressively knowledgeable staff. - February 2017

WHAT TO TRY: The Bouchaine Pinot Noirs show plenty of fruit; expect lush, rich expressions. The Estate Pinot shows a soft, feminine side; the Rockin' H Vineyard is spicier. Don't miss that Pinot Meunier, however – quieter than the Noirs, hinting at orange peel.

INSIDE INFO: Ask about the slightly bizarre story behind the name “Bouchaine.”

