

E-NEWSLETTER

A SWIRL OF MARKET HAPPENINGS

SCHRAMSBERG VINEYARDS CELEBRATES DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY IN THE DIAMOND MOUNTAIN DISTRICT

It was in 1965 that Jack and Jamie Davies set out with a shared dream to make world-class traditional method sparkling wines in Napa Valley's famed Diamond Mountain District. The historic Schramsberg property, founded in 1862, had been abandoned for decades, but the Davies were determined to revitalize it. With a deep-seated passion and a quality approach, Jack and Jamie brought their vision to life with the release of the 1965 Blanc de Blancs, marking the first commercial use of Chardonnay in American sparkling wine. The Blanc de Noirs followed in 1967, and the Brut Rosé in 1968, completing the flagship trio range.

In celebration of the winery's 60th anniversary, second-generation **Hugh Davies**, son of Jack and Jamie, joined the Wilson Daniels team in the New York Tri-State Area to reflect on this momentous milestone and consider the exciting prospects for the next 60 years. *"I'm lucky to be able to continue on with the project that my parents started, and I realize that's not something everybody gets to do. We feel a lot of pride, a lot of enthusiasm, and a lot of positive energy going forward."*



With almost two decades of producing their namesake sparkling range under their belt, the Davies family wanted to produce their own tête de cuvée, a wine that will age beautifully and have the length, drive, and character of the finest sparkling wines made in the world. What was originally introduced as the Chardonnay-based J. Schram 1987 has evolved into a trilogy that has long been considered the pinnacle of U.S. sparkling wine, representing just 6% of Schramsberg's overall sparkling production.

Hugh shared, *"Many recognize Schramsberg for the trio that includes the Blanc de Blancs, Blanc de Noirs, and Rosé. On a smaller scale, yet at the top of our portfolio, we have our J. Schram trio that includes a Blancs, a Noirs, and a Rosé as well. It's always a great pleasure to be able to share these unique vintage and terroir expressions with our customers and collectors."*



While Jack and Jamie were reviving the historic Schramsberg property to create these iconic sparkling wines, it became apparent the terroir was well-suited to red Bordeaux varietals. So in 1994, Hugh set out on a replanting project and has since replanted 43 acres of Cabernet Sauvignon and Pinot Noir across the historic Diamond Mountain Vineyards. *"When my parents set out in the sixties, none of these areas were planted to anything. We have evolved, and as we go, we fine-tune that set, and we have continued to replant those vineyards as well,"* said Hugh.

Hugh and the winemaking team have continued to elaborate on his family's legacy by adding new vineyards and wines to the Davies Vineyards program each year. In 2009, they started producing the first monovarietal red wines from estate vineyards beyond Diamond Mountain, specifically from sites that were sought out for their uniqueness and reputation for first-class Pinot Noir.

In addition to showcasing the Davies, Schramsberg, and J. Schram range, Hugh's New York City visit culminated in a celebratory retrospective J. Schram tasting, spanning nearly three decades, with vintages ranging from 1997 to 2015. If he had to describe the J. Schram philosophy in just three words, without hesitation he exclaimed, *"Vibrant, complex, and refined!"*

***Cheers to 60 years of Schramsberg, and thank you to everyone who raised a glass with us last month!***



COMING SOON!

We are thrilled to have Hugh Davies join us again next month as part of our multi-city Domestic Supplier Tour taking place from March 23-28th! The tour will also feature the families and winemakers behind Arista Winery and Jonive in the Russian River Valley; Hyde de Villaine (HdV) in Carneros; and Bergström Wines and Composition from the Willamette Valley.

These producers emphasize the power of the winemaking prowess in both California and Oregon and we hope to see you in Chicago, New York, Miami, and LA to share some bottles with the Davies, McWilliams, Underwood, Bergström, de Villaine, and Rank families.



WILSON DANIELS

2025 DOMESTIC WINE TOUR

