



# ROESSLER

*vineyard select + handcrafted wines*

## ROGER ROESSLER + FOUNDER OF ROESSLER CELLARS



**ROGER ROESSLER**

Having spent over 40 years in the restaurant business, Roger Roessler found a natural attraction to making wine. Along the way, his restaurants had gone through many changes including more and more emphasis on wine. One of those restaurants was the Swiss Hotel, located on the plaza in Sonoma, where he found himself being drawn more and more to a permanent home in the wine country.

In 1999, a 4 acre parcel of ground was available in Sonoma with a small restaurant on it. The idea of opening another restaurant and maybe planting a couple acres of grapes seemed like the perfect combination. After a year of frustrations over the inability to get the location approved for a larger restaurant, he was left with the thought that making a little wine might have been fun. A winemaking friend suggested “buying a few grapes” and “making a little wine of your own”, and the idea was born.

Friends of Roger’s, the Sangiacomo family, farms great pinot vineyards in Sonoma and agreed to provide a small quantity of the varietal which he’d fallen in love with. The challenge of finding a winemaker who was as passionate about Pinot as Roger, was quickly satisfied through a series of phone calls that resulted in an introduction to Wells Guthrie, who had just started a label of his own called Copain. As the years unfolded, his relationship with Guthrie allowed them to add new vineyards and grow from 225 cases of that original Sangiacomo fruit, to over 7000 cases of 15 single vineyard and appellation designated Pinots and 3 single vineyard Chardonnays.

With offices on the beautiful plaza in Sonoma, the winemaking is still done at the Copain Custom Crush facility in Santa Rosa. The winemaking is now headed up by full time winemaker Scott Shapley, who is Guthrie’s brother in law and Roessler Cellars has become one of the premiere producers of hand crafted Pinot Noirs in the U.S. sourcing fruit from many of the finest coastal vineyards available from Santa Barbara, California to Portland, Oregon.