

CHANDON

HISTORY



BORN FRENCH

Domaine Chandon's earliest history dates back to 1743 when the venerable Champagne house, Moët & Chandon was established in Epernay, France.

Two hundred years later, Moët & Chandon, under the direction of the pioneering Robert-Jean de Vogue, was determined to grow its Champagne business. As a stroke of genius, de Vogüé chose to export know-how not wine and as such established the first French-owned sparkling wine house outside of France, Domaine Chandon.

In his search for the world's most promising wine regions, de Vogüé met John Wright, a passionate business man with a keen interest in California wine. Two years later, in 1973, Moët & Chandon, with John Wright as the leader, established Domaine Chandon in California.

At that time, Napa Valley was relatively unknown as a wine region. The investment of Moët & Chandon captured the world's attention and changed the course of history for Napa Valley.

RAISED IN AMERICA

John Wright was an energetic founder who quickly took action. He hired Will Nord to plant the winery's first vineyard in 1973 on Mount Veeder, immediately followed by a ground-breaking property in the Carneros region. Finally, ideally placed Yountville was selected as the winery home.

That same year, the newly assembled Chandon winemaking team, which included Dawnine Dyer, our senior winemaker for more than two decades, undertook its first harvest. With the winery under construction, the first crush took place at neighboring Trefethen.

In 1977, four years after its founding, Chandon opened the iconic visitor center and has remained one of Napa Valley's most popular destinations for more than 40 years.

Chandon's wine style was established as a blend between Moët & Chandon's winemaking traditions and the vibrancy of California fruit. That style has persevered, ensuring the crafting of a distinctive and exceptional-quality wine year after year.

