



MERRY EDWARDS
WINERY AND VINEYARDS
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

MERRY EDWARDS

FOUNDER
MERRY EDWARDS WINERY

One of California's first woman winemakers, Merry Edwards began her career at Mount Eden Vineyards in the Santa Cruz Mountains in 1974. She went on to become the founding winemaker at Matanzas Creek in 1977 and remained there until 1984. For the next decade, Merry consulted for numerous wineries, large and small, in Oregon and many diverse appellations of California.



What's known today as the Meredith Estate Vineyard, the first vineyard Merry ever purchased (1996), was the foundation of her quest to build her own estate. Some of the vines were propagated from a cutting Edwards took from Mount Eden's Pinot Noir vineyard in 1975: After she paid to have it heat-treated and tested for virus, it was independently certified as Clone UCD37, also known as the "Merry Edwards Selection." It is still widely grown in the Russian River Valley.

In 1997, family and friends joined Merry to found Merry Edwards Winery, with a focus on producing Pinot Noirs with a sense of place from Russian River Valley and Sonoma Coast. In 2008, she and her husband, Ken Coopersmith, completed their winery on the site of Coopersmith Vineyard, and for years they produced acclaimed Pinot Noir, Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay.

In 2013, Merry's 40th year as a winemaker, she was not only inducted into the Culinary Institute of America's Vintners Hall of Fame, she also won the coveted James Beard Award for Best Wine, Beer or Spirits Professional in the United States, one of just three women to win both honors. In 2017, the year the winery's label celebrated its 20th vintage, Merry Edwards was named a Certified California Sustainable Winery as were all of Merry's vineyards. Merry sold her namesake winery to the legendary Champagne Louis Roederer in 2019, and after a year-long transition, she retired in February 2020.