



MAY 2019 FARM VISIT

Great Bear Vineyards, Davis, CA

24800 County Road 101A, Davis, CA 95616

THU, MAY 23 | 8am-12pm and SAT, MAY 25 | 8am-12pm

Dear Artists and Supporters,

You sometimes don't have to go very far out of town to get away from it all. This is certainly true of Great Bear Vineyards. Located just north of Davis, this farm contains within it the story of two farming families from the homestead to the present.

The original owners, the Meyer family, raised livestock and grew row crops on more than 640 acres back in the day. Today what remains is 20 acres of prime soil, where Marcus and Jenny Meadows-Smith grow nine varieties of grapes as well as olive trees and $\frac{1}{4}$ acre of lavender (which will just be coming into flower as we arrive).

The vintage 7000 sq foot barn with stables, horse paddock and barn owls stands not far from an 1860s cottage built from an early catalog kit. Two other farmhouses, one from 1927 and another built in 1970, along with water tower and smokehouse, are nestled among an array of fruit trees and wildflowers.

The newest centerpiece of the property is the mission style home the Meadow-Smiths built in 2017. The foyer, featuring a handmade wrought iron gate and staircase, leads into their tasting room which looks out onto a courtyard and fountain.

Marcus, who was the former CEO of AgraQuest, a biopesticide company, and Jenny a former international business woman, were drawn to the land and left their fast-paced lives behind in 2013 to pursue their passion for wine. They are committed to sustainable farming practices using a no till approach to support healthy soil and the vines are all tended by hand. The same care goes into how they make



their award-winning wine.

"We love what we do. It doesn't feel like a job, it feels like a passion." says Jenny. "It's like living in paradise. It's an amazing feeling to watch the sun come up when you're harvesting." Marcus adds, "We want visitors to share the same joy for the countryside and farming that we do - plus we love drinking wine."

WINETASTING ON SATURDAY

Artists are welcome to stay for winetasting from 11am-noon. Also available, their in-house olive oil and handmade lavender products.

Top Right: Photo courtesy Great Bear Vineyards



RSVP to Janice Purnell at jpurnell@yoloarts.org

Great Bear Vineyards

24800 County Road 101A Davis, CA 95616

Thursdays Greeter: Nancy Muller (530) 304-1902

Saturday's Greeter: Janice Purnell (530) 908-4321



April at Good Humus Produce

OUR THANKS goes out to Annie Main and her daughter Ali for a wonderful visit to **Good Humus Produce**. Everyone enjoyed the beautiful tranquility of your farm and flower garden AND Ali's fabulous bouquet-making demo. We learned a lot of great tips! More photos [HERE](#) Have photos or paintings to digitally share?

Contact jpurnell@yoloarts.org *Bottom left: Photo by Susan Raines; Bottom Right: Alan Fishleder*

