

BLACK OAK

A century-old Oak tree stands guard over our vineyards. Three generations of the Manning Family have enjoyed the gift of this Oak tree. It was the inspiration for our brother Corey when creating the Black Oak label over 20 years ago. This deciduous tree has deeply furrowed bark and on mature trees is nearly black. The moss around the trunk appears black, which is where the tree gets its unique color in maturity.

Like many others in Sonoma County, Corey and his family lost his home and pets in the Sonoma County Fires. On the first visit to his house, he noticed that the Black Oak trees were still standing but were charred truly black from the fire.

Each week he returned to the site and one day, he noticed that underneath the charred trees were signs of green buds and rebirth. It was then that he realized that the Black Oak Tree uses fire as a way to regenerate themselves to a healthy state. Then, as the Black Oak trees started to rebirth themselves, they stood guard over his home as he started to rebuild.

We don't always know why we create something until much later, but now we know why we created the Black Oak Label as our winery's flagship brand. It is to show himself and all of us that after a tragic loss where everything is taken from you, we can use the tragedies in our lives to rebirth ourselves. Like the Black Oak tree, we are all marked with broken ridges from the journey of life, but no matter what is thrown our way, we are reborn and we grow. Majestic grace and unwavering beauty in the belief of the power of love give us all the ability to rise after we fall.

