

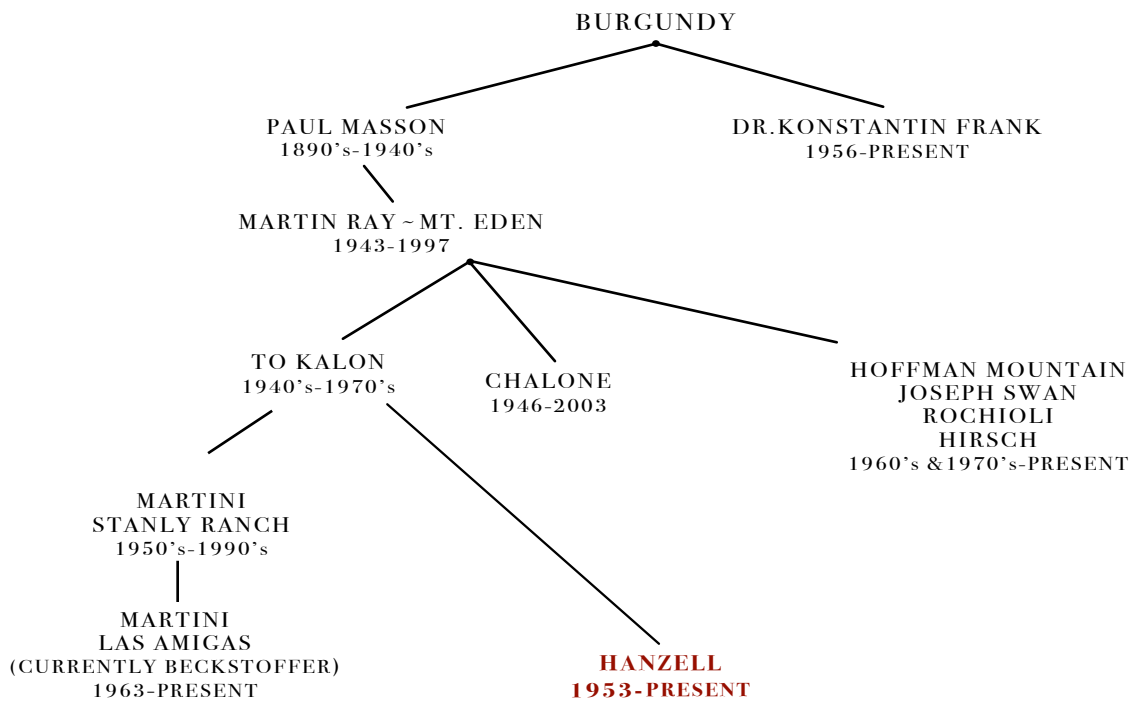
# Hanzell

2003 HANZELL VINEYARDS

PINOT NOIR

## AMBASSADOR'S 1953 VINEYARD

Ambassador Zellerbach planted the first four acres of Pinot Noir on The Hanzell Farm in 1953. The very same vines on their 50th anniversary in 2003, each carrying 3 pounds of grapes, ripened to deep maturity in mid-September. Harvested, fermented, aged and finally bottled in the summer of 2005, Hanzell Vineyards offers 1,507 bottles of wine from the New World's oldest Pinot Noir Vineyard.



Paul Masson imported cuttings from Burgundy in the late 1800's that are the known forebears to the Mt. Eden selection of Martin Ray. Mr. Ray's vines were the source of the California diaspora of Pinot Noir, with budwood grafted at Hoffman Mountain, Joseph Swan, Rochioli, Hirsch and many others. The provenance of the Hanzell clone is also originally with Paul Masson. It was in the 1940's that Martin Stelling's To Kalon Vineyard received budwood from Martin Ray's Mt. Eden Vineyard. In fact, U.C. Davis Professor A.J. Winkler selected the vines from which To Kalon Vineyard manager Ivan Schoch cut the budwood. Ivan Schoch was Hanzell's vineyard manager when Ambassador Zellerbach planted Hanzell Vineyards in 1953 and it was Schoch who introduced the To Kalon Vineyard cuttings to Hanzell Vineyards.

The Hanzell clone is characterized by a high incidence of *millerendage*. These are berries for which pollination failed and the grapes grew no seeds. The seedless grape is naturally restricted in growth and quite often the grapes on a cluster of Hanzell clone Pinot Noir are less than the size of peas. The size of a red grape inversely correlates with wine quality, as the skin (representing the surface area) is the source of pigment, tannin and flavor. Smaller berries have a higher surface area to volume ratio than larger berries and the wines made from small grapes are endowed with complex flavor and abundant tannin for greater aging potential. Indeed, the hallmark of Hanzell Pinot Noir, specifically the Ambassador's 1953 Vineyard, is great longevity.