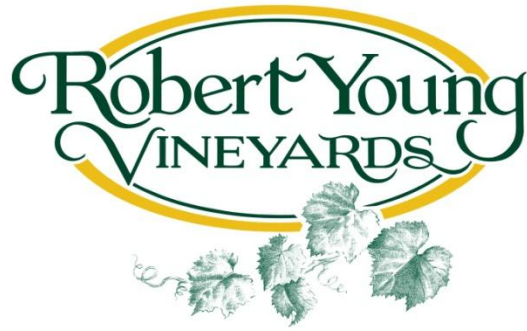




ALEXANDER VALLEY WINEGROWING  
Soil Diversity at Robert Young Vineyards

Robert Young Vineyards' valley floor and hillside land are planted to 300 acres of pristine vineyard. Rolling hills encourage perfect conditions for cultivation of the red Bordeaux-style varieties. Chardonnay vines thrive on the valley soils, where well-drained gravelly soils meld with clay loams.

Nine different soil types with differing depths are found on the Robert Young Estate. One of the main soils consists of alluvial fans found close to the vineyard's hills. Extremely rare in Sonoma County, this alluvium accumulated from erosion flowing down off the hills onto the flatland. The soil is composed of alternating strata, several inches of silty loam soil, then a layer of fine gravel the size of rice, then more loam and so on. This alluvial soil forms the basis for some of the winemaker's favorite blocks on the ranch.

The other main soils on the benchland are Zamora silty clay loam and Clear Lake clay loam. On the hillsides the soils are predominantly Suther-Laughlin loams.

Primary soil types at Robert Young Estate Winery consist of:

- Alluvial. This rare soil type represents 50% of Robert Young benchland soil. In Sonoma County, it is found on 0.1% of county land or 1,136 acres.
- Zamora Silty Clay Loam. This soil constitutes 30% of Robert Young benchland soil. In Sonoma County, it is found on 1.2% of county land or 12, 409 acres.
- Clear Lake Clay Soil. Also rare, this soil type represents 20% of Robert Young benchland soil. In Sonoma County, it is found on 0.6% of county land or 6,082 acres.
- Suther-Laughlin Loams. 50% of Robert Young hillside soil is Suther-Laughlin loams. In Sonoma County, this soil is found on 1.7% of county land or approximately 17,000 acres.
- Spreckles Loam. This soil is found on only 12 acres of the estate hillsides and produces our most prized red grapes. It is only found in 1.4% of the land in Sonoma County.
- Other soils found on the Robert Young Estate include Toomes Rocky Loam and Cartina Very Gravelly Loam on the hillsides.