

KRUPP BROTHERS



In 1991, Dr. Jan Krupp was a successful physician with a green thumb and a passion for great wine. Although still working full-time as an internist, he spent his spare time developing his 41-acre vineyard in the eastern hills of Napa Valley, learning the intricacies of grape cultivation and making wine in his cellar.

Four years later, Jan fell in love with a rugged mountain site for sale just up the road from his Napa home. Though harsh – strewn with rocks, some the size of SUVs, and choked with chaparral – he knew that the 750-acre parcel straddling Pritchard Hill and the Atlas Peak Appellation had the makings of a world-class vineyard.

Several of Napa's elite vintners passed on the opportunity to buy this untamed land – reasoning the risks and challenges were too great. That would change when this uncharted land, rising up to 1,850 feet above sea level, became one of Napa's most renowned vineyards – Stagecoach Vineyard. But the road there wasn't easy.

With the help of his brother Bart Krupp, he purchased the land. The brothers faced a desert mountain landscape with no power, no legal right of access, no known water, and a half million tons of rock and boulder that had to be removed.

Warned that water was scarce on the property, Jan and Bart turned to a geologist, and eventually, to a water witch, who pointed his divining rod to a patch and instructed them to drill – directly into a stream flowing 400 feet underground. Today, that aquifer provides water to more than half a million grapevines.

Next, the brothers set about building access to their new property. After many months of red tape and 135 legal documents, they constructed a gravel road. Once in place, they began to dynamite, clearing the boulders and planting 100 acres a year, yet leaving large swaths of land untouched so the native ecosystem would continue to thrive.

Stagecoach grew to include another 500 acres, and in 1999, Jan and Bart purchased the neighboring 50-acre plot that became Krupp Brothers Vineyard. That same year, they bottled their first wine, Veraison Cabernet Sauvignon.

Today, these vineyards produce fruit for some of Napa's most iconic wineries. Over the years, the Krupp Brothers portfolio would also expand to include the M5 Cabernet Sauvignon, The Doctor, Black Bart Syrah, a Chardonnay and other limited-production wines. Dr Krupp carefully selects and meticulously tends a small percentage of the Brothers' vineyards for the Krupp wines.