



Lail Vineyards: A Chronology

- 1842:** Gustave Ferdinand Niebaum is born August 30, 1842, in Helsinki, Finland.
- 1868:** Gustave Niebaum arrives in San Francisco with a cargo of furs worth more than \$600,000 and becomes a partner in the Alaska Commercial Company.
- 1879:** Gustave Niebaum, having amassed a personal fortune in excess of \$10 million, buys the Inglenook farm and an adjoining four-hundred-forty-acre farm.
- 1882:** Inglenook crushes its first vintage of 80,000 gallons of wine. Niebaum purchases 712 additional acres from five neighbors to add to his Inglenook estate.
- 1889:** Inglenook wine receives an award for “purity and excellence” at the Paris Exposition
- 1907:** John Daniel, Jr. is born (great nephew of Gustave & Susan Niebaum).
- 1908:** Gustave Niebaum passes away at his San Francisco home on August 5, at the age of 66. Winemaking ceases for several years.
- 1914:** John Daniel, Jr. is raised by his great aunt, Susan Niebaum, after the death of his mother.
- 1933:** John Daniel, Jr. reopens Inglenook following the repeal of Prohibition.
- 1936:** John Daniel, Jr. becomes owner and managing director of Inglenook.
- 1940:** Robin Daniel is born (daughter of John Daniel, Jr.)
- 1941:** The 1941 Inglenook Cabernet Sauvignon made by John Daniel, Jr. earns a reputation as one of the best wines ever made.
- 1946:** Inglenook acquires Napanook Vineyard in Yountville.
- 1964:** John Daniel, Jr. sells Inglenook to Allied Grape Growers.
- 1966:** Robin Daniel marries Jon Lail at her home on the Inglenook estate.
- 1969:** Erin Lail is born (daughter of Robin and Jon Lail).

- 1970:** John Daniel, Jr. passes away.
- 1972:** Shannon Lail is born (daughter of Robin and Jon Lail).
- 1974:** Robin Daniel Lail becomes Executive Director of the Volunteer Center of Napa County.
- 1977:** Robin Daniel Lail takes a position as personal assistant to Robert Mondavi, her father's protégé.
- 1981:** Robin organizes the first Auction Napa Valley, the industry's wildly successful annual auction which will go on to raise more than \$170 million to support nonprofit organizations in Napa County.
- 1982:** Robin co-founds Dominus Estate with Christian Moueix.
- 1983:** Robin co-founds Merryvale Vineyards with Bill Harlan, where she serves as president for ten years.
- 1991:** Robin meets Philippe Melka, who was interning at Dominus, after graduating from the University of Bordeaux.
- 1995:** Robin sells out of her partnership at Dominus Estate. This same year, Robin, Erin, Shannon and Jon Lail launch Lail Vineyards, and Philippe Melka becomes the winemaker.
- 1996:** The Lail Family acquires Mole Hill Vineyard on Howell Mountain
- 1997:** Robin sells out of her partnership at Merryvale Vineyards.
- 1998:** Lail Vineyards releases its first wine, the 1995 J. Daniel Cuvee Napa Valley red blend.
- 2014:** Lail Vineyards receives its first 100-point score from renowned wine critic Robert Parker for its 2012 J. Daniel Cuvée Cabernet Sauvignon.
- 2018:** Lail Vineyards receives its second 100-point score from The Wine Advocate – this time from reviewer Lisa Perrotti-Brown – for its 2016 J. Daniel Cuvée Cabernet Sauvignon.

- 2019:** Robin Lail is named the U.S. Representative to [The Porto Protocol](#) and donates 10% of online sales of Blueprint wines to organizations deep in the fight against climate change.
- 2020:** Lail's 2017 Blueprint Cabernet Sauvignon is named the #1 Wine of the Year by Wine Enthusiast.
- 2021:** Robin's role with The Porto Protocol shifts from U.S. Representative to Ambassador.
- 2021:** Lail Vineyards receives their third 100-point review, this time from critic Jeb Dunnuck, for 2018 J. Daniel Cuvée.
- 2021:** Wine-Searcher names Lail's Georgia Sauvignon Blanc one of the best Sauvignon Blancs in the world. Lail was the first U.S. winemaker to make a Graves style Sauvignon Blanc.
- 2022:** Lail Vineyards releases 2019 J. Daniel Cuvée, the wine's 25th vintage.

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