

Coopers Grove Ranch ~ 5800 Sonoma Mountain Road

A Historic Site Between Santa Rosa and Glen Ellen—in the Fabled
Sonoma County Wine County of Fact and Fiction

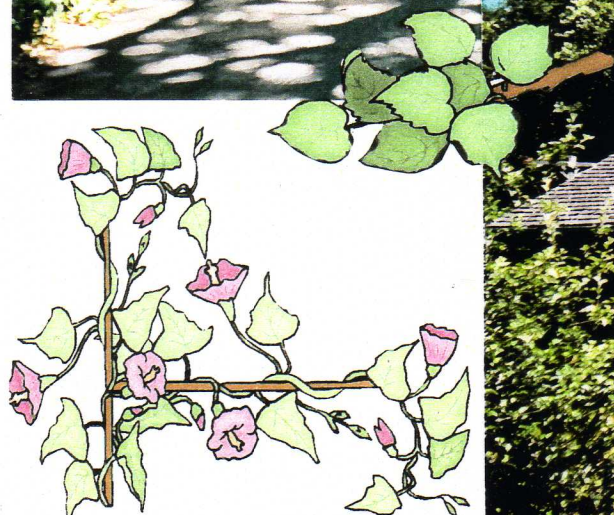
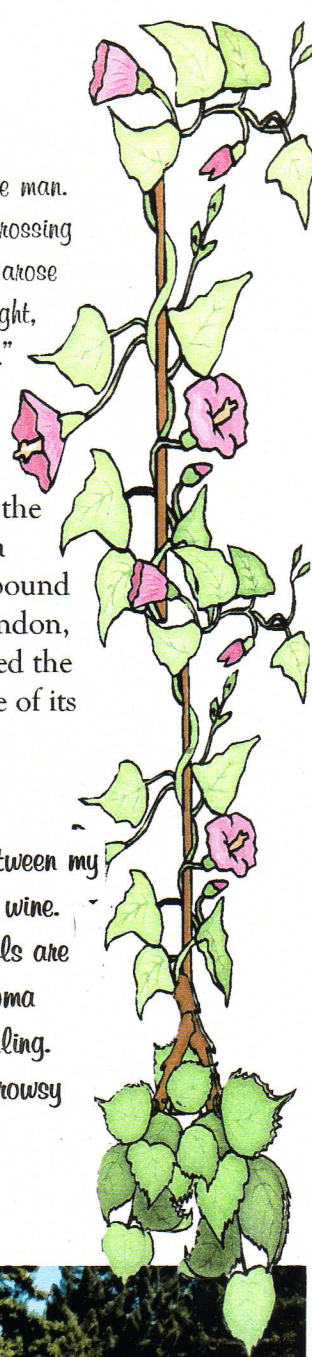
"Which is the prettiest way (to Glen Ellen)?" Saxon asked, "Oh, the right hand road, by all means," said the man. "That's Sonoma Mountain there, and the road skirts it pretty well up, and goes through Coopers Grove."... Crossing a bridge and rounding a sharp turn, they were suddenly enveloped in a mysterious coolness... All about them arose stately trunks of redwood. The forest floor was a rosy carpet of autumn fronds. Occasional shafts of sunlight, penetrating the deep shade, warmed the somberness of the grove. Alluring paths led off among the trees...."

• Jack London • From "Valley Of The Moon," 1913

Here is a land so pure, so perfect, the creator's hand surely rested on it a moment longer. It is property so bound up in beauty that novelist Jack London, once a neighbor to the east, coveted the time he spent here and even wrote of its lushness in his book "The Valley of the Moon."

"I hide over my beautiful ranch. Between my legs is a beautiful horse. The air is wine. The grapes on a score of rolling hills are red with autumn flame. Across Sonoma Mountain, wisps of sea fog are stealing. The afternoon sun smolders in the drowsy sky. I have everything to make me glad I am alive."

• Jack London •





London described his own Beauty Ranch this way and felt similarly about nearby Coopers Grove Ranch.

You sense why London was so taken with this place on your approach: Lazily rolling hills ~ some pastures, some vineyards, all celadon in spring and sorrel in fall ~ suddenly, but quite naturally, give way to a redwood forest striking in its singleness and majesty. Driving up this piece of Sonoma Mountain to the homes on the 75-acre ranch compound, you emerge to skies where birds glide past so near you feel the brush of wings. While far below squirrels skitter through the canyons' aromatic woods, and deer linger hillside over dinner at dusk.

As diverse as it is awe-inspiring, Coopers Grove Ranch has evolved to encompass four individual homes plus caretakers' or guests' quarters. It is conducive to a variety of lifestyles: escaping with extended family the work and worry of new-millennium life; raising horses and livestock as winning as the land; growing grapes brilliant with savor; or simply owning a uniquely beautiful piece of land with income guaranteed from the three additional homes on the property. Current zoning allows the property to be spilt into three parcels.

The Main House

The panoramas from most every spot on the ranch encompass hills molded as softly as the breast of a dove and, to the north, mountains looking back firm in their grandeur. Poised at the crown of the ranch is the rambling and comfortable Main House. Surrounded by wildflower-splashed slopes, the home remains so very private only the hawks passing by know you are there.

Completed in 1997, the custom-built, 4,600 square-foot Main House is 3-Bedrooms, 3-Baths. The Great Room, the quintessential room-with-a-view, has floor-to-ceiling windows for walls and a beamed cathedral ceiling that stretches upward, giving the room the essence of a forest clearing. The see-through walls give way to expansive stone patios where views have an ethereal quality by day and a kind of whispery magic at night.

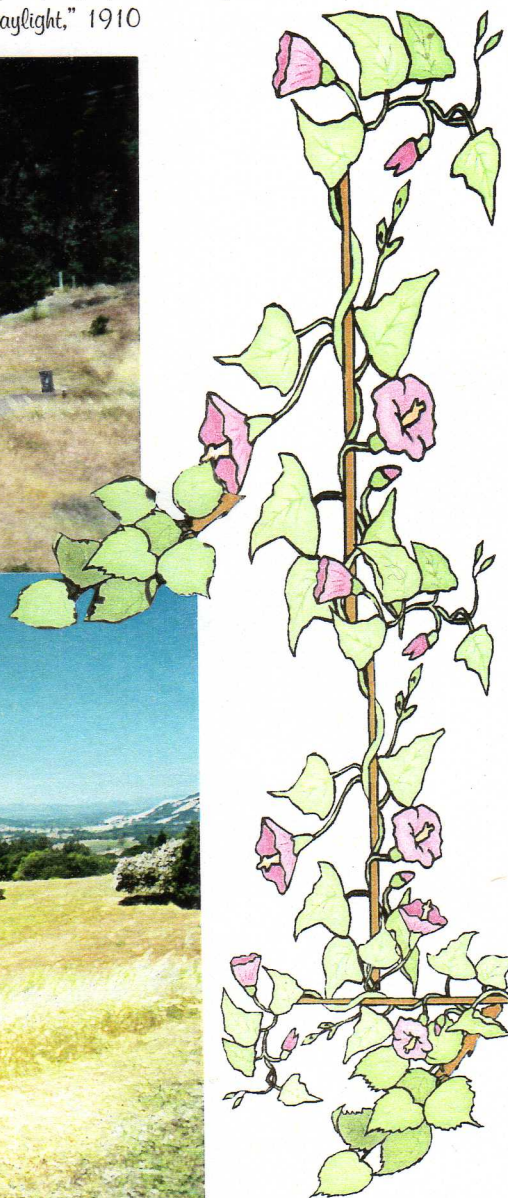
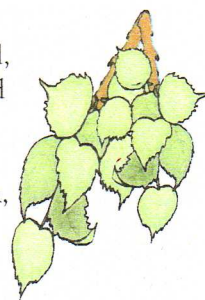
A floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace stands sentinel while richly-burnished woods repeat in bookcases, hardwood floors and beams throughout. The Formal Dining Room, cordoned off with a graceful half-wall, stands poised and quiet, looking down and through the Great Room's windows. Serene at the heart of the home, the Kitchen wraps around an island work station. Abundant cabinetry, a skylight, patio access, and tile work that includes a trompe l'oeil kitchen still-life leave the room radiant.

The spacious Master Bedroom Suite ~ with its fireplace, spa and private "view-watching" patio ~ has a kind of pearlescence about it that invites and encourages rest and renewal.

A passage away is the Studio Home, intimate yet rustic, and also enveloped by land so startlingly beautiful it causes the breath to catch.

"Daylight had never seen anything like it. . . No room for contempt and evil here. This was clean and fresh and beautiful ~ something he could respect. It was like a church. The atmosphere was one of holy calm. Here man felt the prompting of nobler things."

• Jack London • From "Burning Daylight," 1910



The Stone House

Once the dream home of Frank Lloyd Wright architectural student, the 3-Bedroom Stone House has more a woody setting, enhanced by a circular drive, decades-old rhododendron and camellia bushes, as well as a variety of fragrant trees.

A lover of stone, the home's previous owner created a patchwork of pillars, terraces and walkways, plus a fireplace - all intended to be enclosed by the walls of the house when finished but left to become remarkable garden monuments. Nearby, paths descend to a footbridge high across the deep and narrow ravine where Matanzas Creek courses through all year. Here is the sequestered and silent Coopers Grove, a redwood grove so endowed with natural beauty is has been the site of many a wedding.

The Pond House

Down the hill away from the Main House is a 1920s-style, 3-Bedroom cottage with a deck that looks to a delightful, croquet-perfect lawn, a picket fenced garden and a hobby vineyard. Just steps across this verdant glen is a bass-stocked pond, home to a pair of snowy egrets and a pair of blue heron.

The art-deco interior blends knotty pine, zigzag tile patterns and unusual round pocket doors with outdoor sunsets hypnotic in their rainbow hues. Tucked away in this storybook setting, the Pond House suggests complete contentment: romantic interludes; long, lazy afternoons; and settled-in evenings by the woodstove.

The Barn House

Carved from an existing and storied old barn, this simple, rustic, studio backs to some of the ranch's richest pastureland. Sturdy and seasoned wooden decks that could tell many a tale open to lawns and gardens long-established and lovingly tended. The knotty pine interior frames tiled floors, angled windows and a loft. An arm's length away is a tack room and a box stall that merges with a paddock.



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