

PHANTOM CREEK

ESTATES

TIMELINE

- 1977** Becker Vineyard is developed as part of the pioneering Becker Project, which demonstrates that quality European grape varieties can thrive in the Okanagan Valley. Led by renowned viticulturist Helmut Becker, chief of the Geisenheim Institute in Germany, the Becker Project trials more than 30 different grape varieties over eight years.
- 1993** Becker Vineyard is replanted to Cabernet family varieties by Harry McWatters after he identifies the Black Sage Bench's potential for late ripening reds. This would prove to be a historic shift, helping to change the winegrowing philosophy of the region.
- 1996** Phantom Creek Vineyard is planted by pioneering viticulturalist Richard Cleave, who has the foresight to plant the seven-acre parcel predominantly to Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah.
- 2005** Kobau Vineyard is planted to Cabernet family varieties, Viognier, and Syrah by the Jentsch family. The vineyard was originally planted as an apple orchard in 1929, shortly after irrigation was introduced to the South Okanagan,
- 2009** Phantom Creek Vineyard is named one of the "Top 10 Single Vineyards Around the World" by Wine Access Magazine.
- 2011** The Bai family immigrates to Vancouver, after falling in love with the city while their children attended college in British Columbia.
- Spring 2015** Richter Bai visits the Okanagan Valley for the first time, and his dream becomes to build one of the leading wineries in Canada.
- To create Phantom Creek Estates, the Bai family hand-picks Anne Vawter as the Founding and Consulting Winemaker. Anne began her career working under the guidance of Heidi Barrett at Paradigm Winery, and today consults for wineries throughout California and British Columbia.
- Summer 2015** Kobau Vineyard's outstanding block of Syrah bests both the domestic and international competition to win Steven Spurrier's 'Judgement of BC'.

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- Spring 2016** Cameron Vawter joins Phantom Creek as the Founding and Consulting Winemaker and Viticulturalist. As the founding winemaker at Dana Estates, Cameron played an integral role in building the cult Napa winery into a critical darling.
- Driven by a love of Bordeaux-style wine, the Bai family purchases Becker and Phantom Creek Vineyards, and the dream of starting a winery in the Okanagan Valley begins.
- John Taft of renowned Napa firm Backen & Gillam Architects begins designing a world-class winery building to be located atop Becker Vineyard.
- Construction begins on a well-equipped temporary winery at Becker Vineyard, which is completed in just four months.
- Fall 2016** Phantom Creek begins its inaugural vintage by harvesting Merlot and Malbec from Phantom Creek Vineyard on September 23rd.
- Winter 2017** The Bai family expands its acreage on the Black Sage Bench, purchasing the 15-acre Richter Vineyard.
- Spring 2017** The Bai family purchases an orchard located just below Phantom Creek Vineyard on Ryegrass Road, which becomes the namesake for the new 15-acre vineyard.
- Olivier Humbrecht MW, proprietor of Domaine Zind-Humbrecht and France's first Master of Wine, joins Phantom Creek as Consulting Winemaker, his first ever consulting project.
- The Bai family identifies the exceptional potential of a parcel of raw, uncultivated land in the Similkameen Valley, and acquires what will become Evernden Spring Vineyard.
- Renowned soil consultant Dr. Paul Anamosa digs over 45 soil pits at Richter, Ryegrass, and Evernden Spring Vineyards to help determine which grape varieties are best suited to each property.
- Summer 2017** Construction on the new 45,000-square foot winery begins.

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- Fall 2017** Phantom Creek begins its conversion to organic and biodynamic certification, foregoing the use of synthetic herbicides, pesticides, fungicides, or fertilizers at its estate vineyards.
- Under the guidance of Olivier Humbrecht MW, Phantom Creek begins its first vintage of white wines, harvesting Pinot Gris from Okanagan Falls.
- The Bai family finds the ideal site on the Golden Mile Bench to complement its existing estate vineyards, and purchases the acclaimed Kobau Vineyard.
- Spring 2018** Based on Dr. Paul Anamosa's recommendations, Ryegrass Vineyard is planted predominantly to Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and Syrah.
- Phantom Creek begins redeveloping Richter Vineyard, planting the hillside block to Viognier and Malbec.
- Summer 2018** Phantom Creek bottles its first wines, beginning with its flagship Phantom Creek Vineyard Cuvée.
- Spring 2019** Launch of Phantom Creek's wine club and online store.
- Summer 2019** Projected opening date of Phantom Creek Estates.