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## Prelude

In the soil of our Santa Ynez vineyard, sibling vines grow side by side. Though all are rooted in the same gravelly clay loam, some flourish, lush and green, while others seem to struggle, stunted and pale. It is a mystery.

“Viticulture is an art, like practicing medicine,” says our friend Paul Hohe, a retired physician and fellow wine grape grower. He is right. At first we rely on technical knowledge, but in the end experience and intuition are our most valuable tools. Nothing is wholly predictable, but we have learned that the elements beyond our control are what make each vintage, like each life, unique.

*One Vintage* is about one year of farming wine grapes, from bud to harvest: about the everyday realities of working the vineyard, despite exhaustion and loss. It is about how we are healed and restored by that work and by this place, whose seasons reflect the great cycle of life.



## Words

### BUD:

An undeveloped shoot formed at the base of a leaf, usually protected by scales.

### BLOCK:

A section of vineyard, usually with the same soil, vine spacing, rootstock and clones.

### CANE:

A one-year-old shoot grown from a bud location.

### CANOPY:

The active growing vegetation of the vine.

### CATCH WIRE:

A trellis wire that holds the shoots in the desired position.

### CLONE:

A group of vines of uniform type, propagated vegetatively from an original mother vine with distinctive varietal characteristics.

**CORDON:**

A cane that is allowed to remain along a trellis support wire for more than one year, becoming a permanent part of the vine's structure.

**COVER CROP:**

Vegetation that grows between the vine rows. As well as providing erosion control and a beneficial insect habitat, it improves soil structure and controls vine vigor.

**PETIOLE:**

A leaf stalk that attaches the leaf blade to the shoot.

**SHOOT:**

Current season's stem growth that bears leaves and buds.

**SPUR:**

A portion of the previous year's cane, containing buds, left on the vine at winter pruning.

**TRELLIS:**

A physical structure that supports the vines.



## Groundwork



The vibrant gold light of summer has changed overnight into the reserved blue of fall. Post harvest is a quiet time, a time of renewal and reflection. I stand on the patio behind our home and look out across the twisted knots of woody vines. Crackling with the first frost, yellow ochre leaves drift to the ground, leaving lonely brown canes clinging to the trellis catch wires.

It is almost seven years since my husband John and I planted this vineyard, the fruition of a dream we had nurtured for twenty years. Like newlyweds, full of naïveté and promise, we christened our new venture Faith Vineyard, for the belief in something of which there is no proof.