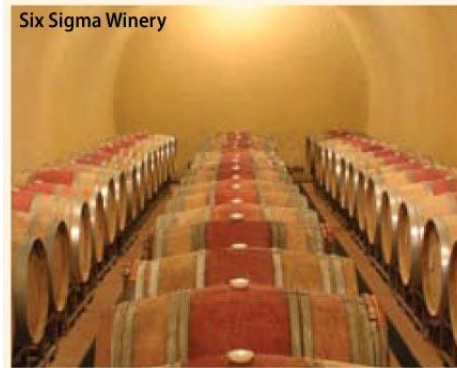




Brassfield Wine Estates



Six Sigma Winery



Moore Family Winery

## Cool Caves In Lake County's Wine Country

Even if winemaking has developed immensely since the Roman Empire ruled the world, one thing still stands 2,000 years later: it is beneficial for wine to be stored underground. In a time when artificial cooling was not an option, the Romans knew that their caves – or catacombs as they called them – protected the wine from the harsh environment and provided a stable temperature and a natural humidity that allowed the wine to age gently. Recently, the ancient technique has been taken up by several wineries in Lake County, and in the near future, the old-world aromatic winery-atmosphere may be a natural part of a modern wine adventure.

When Six Sigma Winery rejoiced over their inaugural production in 2005, they dedicated the small wine cave they had developed into the hillside next to the winery. Located on a dirt road two miles off Spruce Grove Road south of Lower Lake,

the winery welcomes visitors for tasting and tours by appointment, and will show the cave on special request.

Brassfield Estate Winery, located in High Valley Appellation above Clearlake Oaks, began construction of wine caves a little under two years ago. To date, they have dug 75,000 square feet, of which 15,000 square feet are completed and used to store 1,500 barrels. Plans for a hospitality room located in the caves are also under way.

Moore Family Winery proprietor Steve Moore and his son, Beau, not only manage their vineyards and make wine, but they also build caves – for wineries in Napa and Sonoma and, most recently, for their own winery located on Cobb Mountain. Upon completion in 2009, their caves will feature a large event room for wedding receptions, parties and meetings, in addition to a wine making area with barrel and case storage, offices, restrooms, and kitchen facility.



[www.sixsigmaranch.com](http://www.sixsigmaranch.com)