



SIX SIGMA RANCH™

HIKING & BIKING AT SIX SIGMA RANCH

“The Roads”

Both Sorensen Avenue and Eagle Rock Road were carved out of a mountain side, with a drop down of more than 50 feet in many places. *For safety, please stay close to the mountain side, far away from the outer edge of the road.*

Long pants and boots or closed-toe shoes are recommended.

Road #1 – SORENSEN AVENUE

From Tasting Room to Diamond Mine Vineyard

- Sorensen Avenue was named after our friend David Sorensen who did the construction in the year 2000, using our 1957 D-6 Bulldozer.
- The road is 1.6 miles long and goes from the bridge by the tasting room to the gate of Christian’s Block in the Diamond Mine Vineyard.
- The altitude increase is about 250 ft from the bridge to the vineyard gate.
- The road goes through different landscape types, mainly: Oak woodland (valley oak, blue oak, live oak) / Chaparral / Chaparral mixed with oak (blue oak, live oak) / Oak woodland (mainly black oak) / Open land with occasional trees.

Road #5 – EAGLE ROCK ROAD

From Tasting Room going “out back”

- Eagle Rock Road runs along Asbill Creek.
- It was named after a free-standing rock formation that looks like the head of an eagle. The rock is a little further out than the part of the trail that is open to the public.
- At some point the road was part of a stagecoach route going out to the mines in Knoxville.
- The road is fairly level, but has some dips by the creeks. The two low crossings usually dry out in the summer.
- The trail is about 0.9 mile long.

HIKE AND BIKE WITH COMMON SENSE

By God's grace, our family became stewards of Six Sigma Ranch twenty years ago. It's a pleasure for us to share this incredible piece of nature, and we hope you'll enjoy your tours here. (Learn more about the place in our books *Folks Who Walked the Land of Six Sigma Ranch* and *Oaks of Six Sigma Ranch*.)

Although we can't guarantee a 100% trouble-free experience, we'd like to share some common-sense advice for your comfort and safety.

- Choose a trail that works well with your fitness level, and dress according to the weather.
- Bring plenty of water to drink.
- Stay on the trail and keep dogs on leash.
- Keep an eye out for poison oak – leaves-of-three, let them be!
- Protect against ticks and insects – wear long pants and boots or closed-toe shoes. Check your skin and clothing after the tour.
- Snakes will usually slither away before you notice them. If you should see one, leave it plenty of space. Do not climb rocks, and don't put your hands and feet where you can't see them.
- Bears will usually walk away before you spot them. If you should ever be faced with one, lift your arms and make yourself look as big as you can. Back off slowly, don't run.
- What about mountain lions, you may wonder? We have spotted mountain lions on our trail cameras, so we knew they were here, but it would take 20 years before we personally got a glimpse of one. Again, use common sense – hike and bike in broad daylight, stay with the group, and keep children close.

Kaj & Else

#1 Sorensen Avenue



1. Start by the bridge by the Tasting Room.



2. The road leads through oak woodland.



3. After the first curve in the road, the vegetation changes to chaparral.



4. Turn around to get a view of Asbill Valley with Mt. Konocti in the distant background. (0.35 miles from start)



5. Chaparral landscape.



6.. If the gate is closed but not locked, leave it closed and secured behind you. If it is open, leave it open. (0.5 miles from start). If you find the gate *locked*, please don't continue.



7. About 0.7 mile from start, oak trees appear again.



8. Further up the road you get a view of Jim Dollar Mountain. (1.1 miles) The hillside below the road is clad in blue oak.



9. Giant moss-covered black oaks grow in this area.



10. The road opens up to a flat area, originally named Schweirs' Flat after two brothers who settled the land in the 1880s. (1.3 miles). Our name for the area is the Diamond Mine.



11. The road curves to the right and ends by Christian's Vineyard, 1.6 miles from start. (There is also a road going left, but that part is not open to the public.)



12. If you continue straight instead of making the right turn, you'll get to Marianne & Annette's Vineyard instead of Christian's. (1.5 miles total).

#5 Eagle Rock Road



1. Start by the gate just east of the Tasting Room. If on a rare occasion this gate is closed, the road is temporarily closed to the public.



2. The barn was built by Norval Brookins who assembled almost the entire ranch between 1926 and 1963.



3. Maybe you can spot this big English walnut tree off the right side of the road after the barn. Here was the homestead of Thomas Henry Smith, one of the original settlers at the ranch. Even if the family moved to town more than 100 years ago, the old Iris patch under the trees still blooms every spring.



4. The landscape on the left side of this part of the road is chaparral...



5. ... While big valley oaks reach out towards the creek on the other side of the road. (0.2 miles from start).



6. On this spring day, the creek was still running with plenty of water.



7. As you approach the first creek crossing, you'll see giant oak trees on both sides of the road. Black oaks thrive on the left, and canyon live oaks and interior live oaks on the other side.



8. The first creek crossing. (0.7 miles). During the wet season, you need serious rain boots if you want to continue. In summer, it dries out completely.



9. On the other side of the crossing, the steep hillsides on the left side of the creek are covered with mixed oak forest...



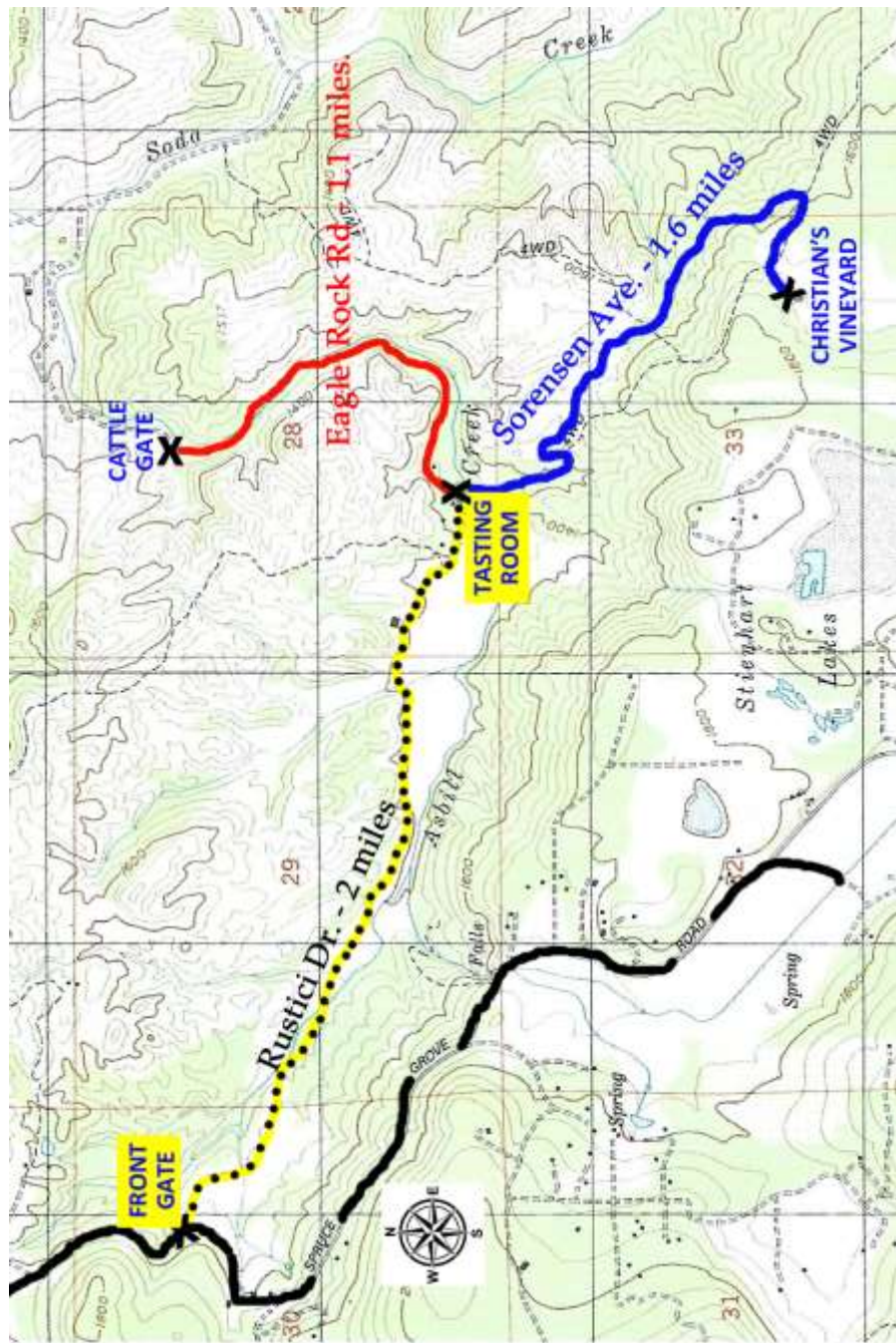
10. ... while big valley oaks thrive on both sides of the road.



11. The creek crosses the road for the second time, flanked by big rocks. This crossing is also wet in the rainy season, but dries out completely in summer. (1.0 miles).



12. The end of the public part of this road is marked by a green cattle gate. Like the first gate, it is surrounded by blue oaks. (1.1 miles total).



HIKING & BIKING "MENU"

Please sign in and park by the Tasting Room each time you visit.

Fill out a Liability Release Form the first time you sign in for a hike or a bike ride.



SIX SIGMA RANCH

| Road/Trail | Difficulty | Distance | Terrain | Notes |
|--------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|--|---|
| # 0 Rustici Drive | easy | 2 miles gravel road | slight incline, mainly at the last half | Driveway from Tasting Room to Front Gate. Return route for #2 and #3 |
| # 1 Sorensen Avenue | medium | 1.6 miles gravel road | altitude increase about 250 ft. | Separate road from Tasting Room to Diamond mine VY. (Return by same road) |
| # 2 Creek Trail | easy/ medium | 1.1 miles trail | fairly level, with a few "dips" | Connects with # 0 |
| # 2A Middle Earth | hard/very hard | 0.7 miles trail | both trails have steep hills and <i>trail cattle guards</i> | Both trails are additions to the Creek trail, exploring the south side of the creek |
| # 2B Else's Valley Trail | hard/very hard | 0.9 miles trail | | |
| # 3 Kaj's Winery Trail | hard | 2.7 miles trail | moderate to steep hills | Connects with # 0 |
| # 3A The Edge | hard | 0.8 miles trail | moderate to steep hills level, with a few "dips" | Both trails are additions and access points to Winery Trail |
| # 3B T-Post | medium/hard | 0.4 miles trail | | |
| # 5 Eagle Rock Road | medium | 1.1 miles narrow gravel road | a few "dips" and two creek crossings (Hike far away from the edge) | Separate road from Tasting Room going "out back". (Return by same road) |

Picture-guides are available for these self-guided tours. Also available at SixSigmaRanch.com/visit. Flower guide available too.