



SIX SIGMA RANCH

## HIKING & BIKING AT SIX SIGMA RANCH

### *Road and Trails in Asbill Valley (#0, #2, and #3)*

*Length and level of difficulty are listed in the table on the back cover. See also map on the second-to-last page.*

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

#### *Road #0 – Rustici Drive*

We named the first 1.8 miles of our driveway in honor of Russell Rustici, the previous owner of the ranch. This is our oldest road, and part of it likely dates back to the Asbill family, the first settlers at the ranch around 1860. At some point it was part of a stagecoach route going out to the mines in Knoxville.

#### *Trail #2 – Creek Trail*

This trail was built in 2019 by the local Mountain Bike teams and their coaches and friends, with Jim Jacobson as the trailblazer.

The trail starts by the Main Cattle Guard on Rustici Drive/Oak Street, runs along Asbill Creek and ends by the Rock Wall on Rustici Drive.

#### *Additions to Trail #2 – Middle Earth and Else's Valley Trail*

Trails were built by Chris Moe, a local contractor, avid mountain biker, and friend of Six Sigma Ranch. Both trails include *Trail cattle guards* that are not recommended for dogs. (pic. #22). Trails were inaugurated in 2021 and 2022.

#### *Trail #3 – Kaj's Winery Trail*

This trail was built in 2019 by the local Mountain Bike teams and their coaches and friends, with Jim Jacobson as the trailblazer.

It starts by the Main Cattle Guard on Rustici Drive/Oak Street, runs a long loop in the hills north of the winery, and ends by the Rock Wall on Rustici Drive.

#### *Additions to Trail #3 – The Edge Trail and T-Post Trail*

These trails were built by Chris Moe and inaugurated in 2022.

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SixSigmaRanch.com/Guides

## HIKE AND BIKE WITH COMMON SENSE

By God's grace, our family became stewards of Six Sigma Ranch more than 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.

## #0 Rustici Drive



1. After crossing the Main Cattle Guard where Rustici Drive meets the private Oak St., simply follow the road.



2. The barn on the north (right) side of the road was built by Norval Brookins who gathered almost the entire ranch between 1926 and 1963.



3. The winery is on the north side of the road. We built the first part of it in 2005, and it was ready just in time for crushing our first vintage of Tempranillo.



4. Across from the winery is our 5,000 sqft storage cellar, *The Barrel Room*. The antique plow in the front was a gift from the Lockman family. From the 1920's, it originates from the Copsey family who settled on a part of the ranch by Spruce Grove Road.



5. The Valley Oaks by the Rock Wall are some of the biggest at the ranch. (1.0 mile from the start). The Creek Trail and Kaj's Winery Trail end by the Rock Wall. Rustici Drive continues through Michael's Vineyard.



6. A stand of Blue Oaks leads up to the front gate, 1.8 miles from the Main Cattle Guard.

## #2 Creek Trail



1. Start by the Main Cattle Guard where Rustici Drive meets the private Oak Street. Follow the south trail across the field towards Asbill Creek (named after the first family settling in the valley around 1860.)



2. The trail curves slightly to the left (0.15 miles) and continues downhill to the creek. The trail offers some interesting looks at the landscape such as...



3. ... almost vertical walls of layered rock



4. ... an all-year waterhole



5. ... rocky creek beds that dry out and sport various grasses as soon as there's a break in the rain in the rainy season



6. You see the winery across the valley on your right.





7. Then, (0.3 miles) a sign shows where you can cross the creek to access Middle Earth and Else's Valley Trail. (*pic. #13-24*)



8. For now, we'll stay on this side of the creek. A couple of times the trail intersects with cow trails that lead into the field. Stay on the trail closest to the creek for the best hiking experience.



9. The Creek Trail offers an insider's look at a project done in the 1950s by a former owner, Norval Brookins: Relocating Asbill Creek from its meandering path in the middle of the valley to an out-of-the way location along the south side. A few drainage ditches (here 0.7 miles) were part of the project, leading rainwater directly to the creek from the hills on the north side of the valley.



10. The creek used to meander all the way to this lonely Valley Oak by Rustici Drive.



11. Close to the end of the trail you'll see several weathered tree trunks at the other side of the creek. These trees were cut down to make space for a short canal that serves as an important part of the relocation project.



12. The trail ends by the giant Valley Oaks and the Rock Wall on Rustici Drive. (1.1 miles from Main Cattle Guard).

## #2 A – Middle Earth



13. To get to the trails on the south side of Asbill Creek, cross the creek by the sign shown in *pic #7* on the previous page.



14. Follow the trail to the right along the creek. Soon you'll get to the first *trail cattle guard*. (Please note: It takes good coordination to cross these, and they are not recommended for dogs).



15. The sign after the *trail cattle guard* points to the right towards Middle Earth.



16. At the next sign, you can take the short-cut (Hopper) on the right side (cutting off 0.3 miles), or continue uphill towards Middle Earth to the left.



17. The top of Middle Earth offers a view of Asbill Valley. Follow the trail downhill...



18. ... and cross the next *trail cattle guard* to make it back to the Creek Trail. (0.7 miles total).



## #2 B – Else’s Valley Trail



19. Start – like for Middle Earth – by crossing the creek and follow the trail. By this sign, choose the left trail that runs in the hills above Asbill Creek...



20. ... then heads downhill after a dramatic curve. (0.25 miles)



21. After passing through an area with Blue Oak forest, the trail heads towards Else’s Vineyard. Follow the trail along the vineyard fence...



22. ... and cross the *trail cattle guard* by the sign *Else’s Valley Trail*. (0.6 miles). Now, you can *either* continue along the vineyard fence to the road, then follow that and cross the bridge close to the Tasting Room. (0.9 miles total)



23. ... *or* make a left and head towards the big Blue Oak in the field. Cross two more *trail cattle guards* and climb down the steep embankment to Asbill Creek.



24. Cross the creek, then follow the trail to the left to make it back to the Creek Trail. (0.9 miles total)

## #3 Kaj's Winery Trail



1. Start by the Main Cattle Guard where Rustici Drive meets the private Oak Street. Follow the north trail across the field and into the hills clad with Live Oak and Blue Oak.



2. The trail leads around the cattle barn where giant Valley Oaks thrive by a seasonal stream. (About 0.4 mile from start)



3. You get a glimpse of the winery (0.6 miles) before the trail continues into the hills on the east side of the winery...



4. ... then meanders downhill into the long valley behind the winery...



5. ... through oak land and chaparral.



6. Before the trail heads west, you get a distant glimpse of the backside of the winery. (About 1.2 mile from start).





7. About 1.5 miles from start is the T-Post shortcut that can take you back to Rustici Drive in 0.4 miles.



8. The Winery Trail leads uphill through a mixed forest that is home for tall stands of fragrant California bay laurel trees.



9. The landscape changes to chaparral, and the trail now continues on the right side of the fence line. (About 1.8 mile from start).



10. After a steep descent, the trail meanders with hairpin turns and ups-and-downs on the north side of Rustici Drive. You can exit the trail at Stevo's Bend (2.2 miles from start) and get back to Rustici Drive...



11. ... or continue until you get to a path that runs along a drainage ditch toward the giant Valley Oaks and the Rock Wall on Rustici Drive.



12. The Winery Trail ends by the Rock Wall, after a total of 2.7 miles.

## #3A – The Edge & #3B – T-Post



13. The Edge trail starts with a steep ascent on Rustici Drive, just west of the winery. In the top right corner of the photo, you see Moe's Picnic Place.



14. The climb is worth the effort – the view from the top of the Grandstand is amazing. (This bowl-shaped hillside was used as seating for rodeos in the 1960s.) After the Grandstand, the trail turns right, running above a deep valley, then heads back towards Rustici Drive.



15. As the trail comes close to Rustici Drive (0.5 m from start), you can reach it from the Drive. It then runs in the hills along Rustici Drive until it merges with the Winery Trail (0.8 miles total). The segment named Jack Hammer got its name because Chris Moe had to hammer it out from the shale in the hillside.



16. Wilbur Pass is another access point on Rustici Drive.



17. The last segment of The Edge is Stevo's bend, constructed by Steven Beckstead. From this, you can access Kaj's Winery Trail as well as The Edge.



18. The T-post is another route to access the Winery Trail. It starts on the west side of the winery fence by Rustici Drive and runs 0.4 miles.





SIX SIGMA RANCH

# HIKING & BIKING TRAILS IN ASBILL VALLEY

9/16/2022

Kaj's Winery Trail - 2.7 miles

## NORTH TRAILS



T-Post - 0.4 miles

The Edge 0.8 m

TO FRONT GATE

Stevo's Bend

Wilbur Pass Jackhammer

Grandstand MOE'S PICNIC PLACE

Creek Trail - 1.1 miles

Hopper

Middle Earth 0.7 miles

Eise's Valley Trail - 0.9 miles

ELSE'S VINEYARD

WINERY

BARN

TASTING ROOM

Main Cattle Guard

BRIDGE

Sorensen Ave.

Vine St.

Asbill Creek

Rusici Drive

Oak St. (private)

Rock Wall

★ : Trail Sign

(( : Trail cattle guard (Not recommended for dogs)

## SOUTH TRAILS



# 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.



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	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	and <i>trail cattle guards</i>	
# 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	Both trails are additions and access points to Winery Trail
# 3B T-Post	medium/hard	0.4 miles trail	level, with a few "dips"	
# 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](http://SixSigmaRanch.com/visit). Flower guide available too.