



### **About Rene & Veronica di Rosa**

DI ROSA, a non-profit public trust, is the vision of two devoted patrons of the arts, Rene and Veronica di Rosa. Through their generosity the vast collection of art, historic buildings and surrounding open space were gifted to the public for the enjoyment of future generations.

**Rene di Rosa** was born in Boston in 1919. He graduated from Yale University where he was editor of the Yale Daily News. He served as a Navy lieutenant in World War II and in 1950 took a job as a reporter for the San Francisco Chronicle. While living in the burgeoning San Francisco art community, Rene began to collect the works of emerging Bay Area artists. In 1960 he purchased land in the Carneros region of southern Napa County where he successfully planted vineyards. While taking viticulture classes at UC Davis, he developed what would be lifelong friendships with artists and professors including William T. Wiley, Robert Hudson and Robert Arneson. Rene became an avid collector and arts activist, serving on the Board of Trustees of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, The San Francisco Art Institute and New York's Whitney Museum National Committee.

**Veronica di Rosa** was born in Canada and trained as an artist at the Emily Carr School of Art. After moving to California she became admired for her work as a watercolorist and sculptor. She continued making art while raising two children and becoming deeply engaged in philanthropic endeavors in the Napa Valley. Veronica was an active hostess, the author of several whimsical illustrated cookbooks, as well as an active booster of Napa Valley's finest in wines, music and the fine arts. She is credited as being a driving force behind many of the area's cultural institutions, in particular the rescue and re-establishment of the Napa Valley Opera House as an intimate venue for performance in the heart of downtown Napa.

In 1982, Rene di Rosa sold 250 acres of his famed Winery Lake vineyards, using the profits to establish the Rene and Veronica di Rosa Foundation with the vision to build an "art park," for the greater public. As a manifestation of that vision, the di Rosa "Preserve" opened to the public in 1997 and became a separate nonprofit 501(c)3 organization in 2000.