

1 KEVIN P. BLOCK (121329)  
2 *kb@winelawyers.com*

3 ROMAN BLOCK (306966)  
4 *rb@winelawyers.com*

5 BLOCK & BLOCK LLP

6 1109 Jefferson Street

7 Napa, California 94559

8 Telephone: (707) 251-9871

9 Telefax: (707) 251-0368

10 Attorneys for Defendant HUGH REIMERS and  
11 Defendant/Cross-complainant TORICK FARMS, LLC

12 SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

13 COUNTY OF LAKE

14 LANGTRY FARMS, LLC, a Delaware  
15 Limited Liability Company,

16 Plaintiff,

17 v.

18 HUGH REIMERS, an individual;  
19 TORICK FARMS, LLC, a California Limited  
20 Liability Company; and  
21 DOES 1-20,

22 Defendants.

Case No.: CV421774

**DECLARATION OF ERIC STINE IN  
SUPPORT OF CROSS-  
COMPLAINANT'S EX PARTE  
APPLICATION FOR A TEMPORARY  
RESTRAINING ORDER AND ORDER  
TO SHOW CAUSE RE PRELIMINARY  
INJUNCTION**

Date: May 19, 2021

Time: 3:30 p.m.

Dept.: 1

Complaint Filed: May 3, 2021

23  
24 AND RELATED CROSS-ACTION  
25  
26  
27  
28

1 I, Eric Stine, declare:

2 1. I have worked in the wine business for 17 years. From June 2020 to January  
3 2021, I worked as the Vice President of Winemaking at Langtry Farms, LLC. Prior to that, I  
4 worked as the Vice President of Winemaking for Foley Wines for five years. For seven years  
5 before that, I worked as a winemaker at Langtry. In my capacity as Langtry's Vice President of  
6 Winemaking, my duties included bringing custom crush business into the winery. I worked with  
7 Langtry CEO Easton Manson on a regular basis.  
8

9 2. I was responsible for bringing in custom crush business from Hugh Reimers in  
10 2020. In September 2020, among other varieties, Hugh delivered Pinot Noir grapes from one of  
11 his vineyards in the Russian River appellation of Sonoma County.  
12

13 3. I agreed with Hugh that he could work with Langtry on a "crush and delivery"  
14 basis. For a flat fee of \$350 per ton, Langtry would make wine for Hugh and allow him to keep  
15 it at the winery through April 2021, by which time Hugh would either sell the wine or move it to  
16 another bonded facility. Storage charges through April were folded into the \$350 per ton fee.  
17 There would be no separate storage charges unless Hugh kept the wine at Langtry beyond April.  
18

19 4. Before agreeing with Hugh on this arrangement, I discussed it with CEO Manson.  
20 I specifically discussed Hugh's right to keep wine at Langtry through April without being  
21 charged separately for storage. Manson approved.  
22

23 5. I also told Manson, before Hugh's Pinot Noir grapes were delivered, that they had  
24 been rejected by Duckhorn Winery for smoke taint. I told Manson that Duckhorn had excess  
25 grape inventory that year and was using the fires as an excuse to get out of certain grape con-  
26 tracts, a common practice among wineries during fire years. A buyer's rejection of grapes does  
27 not mean they are smoke tainted; it just means that the buyer does not need those grapes.  
28

6. I told Manson that I knew the vineyard where Hugh's Russian River Pinot had been grown, that it was far away from any fires, and that, in my estimation, the grapes were not smoke tainted. I later saw some ETS Lab results for the chemical indicators of smoke which confirmed the grapes were undamaged.

7. Manson accepted my statement and told me to bring Hugh's River Pinot Noir from the Russian River vineyard into Langtry. He did not express any concern about those grapes being smoke tainted and did not request that Hugh sign a grape salvage or other contract covering the fruit. On the contrary, Manson later thanked Hugh for bringing in the Russian River Pinot since they generated additional custom crush fees for Langtry.

8. I understand that Langtry is claiming Hugh's wine damaged the winery's large oak tanks used for holding bulk wine. Oak tanks are charred, like a wine barrel, which has been shown to generate the same chemical compounds found in wildfire smoke. The result can impart a smoky flavor in the wine, although is not the case for these tanks, which are 40 years old and have held many millions of gallons of wine during that time. The claim that a single batch of wine, any wine with smoke taint, contaminated the tanks is not plausible.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on May 13, 2021 in Napa County, California.

Eric Stein

Eric Stine