

# Wine Spectator

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## DOGS OF CALIFORNIA WINE COUNTRY

Kim Stare Wallace of Dry Creek Vineyard With Holly



**HOME AND AWAY**  
Holly likes relaxing around the house, but is also known for escaping to the nearby creek or general store.

### Holly

**OWNER**  
KIM STARE WALLACE  
Dry Creek Vineyard

**BREED** Yellow Labrador

**AGE** 12

**FAVORITE TREAT** Dog biscuits

**FAVORITE ACTIVITY** Getting wet in Dry Creek

**STAR QUALITY** Always happy

**FAVORITE GETAWAY** Escaping the yard to hang out at Dry Creek General Store down the road

Kim Stare Wallace never considered herself a dog person until Holly came along. 12 years ago, Her dad, Dry Creek founder David Stare, had ranch dogs when she was growing in Healdsburg, Calif., but they were never allowed in the house.

"Holly is the first dog I ever bonded with," Wallace says. "When I come home from work, she's there smiling. She really smiles. She's always happy, that's what I like about her."

Holly was originally Kim's son's dog, but Wallace gradually inherited her, a familiar pattern for families with children. Being a Labrador, Holly will eat just about anything, Wallace says, but dog biscuits are her standby snack. She rambles bark, something Wallace appreciates about her Lab. Holly can be a bit of a sweet sounder; one of her favorite pastimes is escaping the family's fenced-in yard near the winery.

"We'd joke, 'Holly's gone on a walk,'" Wallace says. "She'd go AWOL and head down to Dry Creek to get in the water. Labs are water dogs. She also liked to go to Dry Creek General Store, and we'd get a call, 'Holly's here.'"

Her great escapes are rarer now that she's older and has had health issues. When in February of 2020, Holly underwent emergency throat surgery, Wallace was alarmed. She slept with Holly on the couch for three nights to be sure she was breathing. "I thought I was going to lose her," Wallace says. "But she's like a puppy again. I think she's on her ninth life."