



HISTORICAL TIMELINE

1899 Konstantin Frank is born on July 4th in Ukraine.

1928 Invented a special plow designed to cover the graft union, now known as “hilling up.”

1939 Earns his doctorate in viticulture with a thesis on frost resistance and vineyard protection—research that would later enable the successful cultivation of vinifera grapes in the Finger Lakes.

1951 Immigrates to the United States with his family. With a Ph.D. in viticulture, he begins work at Cornell University’s Geneva Experiment Station.

1954 Hired at Gold Seal Vineyards with the sole purpose of developing a vinifera program.

1957 Becomes a United States citizen.

1958 Purchases 188 acres on Keuka Lake and plants his first vinifera vineyard.

1962 Founds Dr. Konstantin Frank "Vinifera Wine Cellars."

1968 Establishes the American Wine Society, now the largest and oldest consumer-based wine organization in the U.S.

1972 Dr. Frank’s son, Willy Frank, joins the winery.

1979 Dr. Frank wines are served for Queen Elizabeth II.

1979 New York Governor Hugh Carey proclaims March 7th “Dr. Frank Day” in recognition of his achievements in viticulture.

1980 Willy purchases a historic wine cellar and surrounding land with the goal of producing the first Méthode Champenoise sparkling wine from traditional Champagne grapes in the Finger Lakes.

1985 Willy harvests the first grapes for what will become the 1989 Brut sparkling wine. Dr. Konstantin Frank passes away.

1989 Barbara Frank, Willy's daughter, and Winemaker, Mark Veraguth joins the winery.

1989 Willy Frank releases the first traditional method sparkling wine from traditional Champagne grapes - Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, and Pinot Meunier.

1993 Willy’s son, Fred Frank takes over leadership of the winery and expands production with the introduction of a second brand, Salmon Run Wines.

1995 Dr. Frank wine is served at a meeting between U.S. President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

1996 Dr. Frank wine is featured at a White House Governor’s Dinner under the Clinton Administration.

2005 Eric Bauman joins as Sparkling Winemaker.

2006 Fred Frank purchases land on Seneca Lake and begins planting Grüner Veltliner.

2006 Named “Winery of the Year” at the New York Wine Classic Competition.

2006 Willy Frank passes away.

2011 Dr. Frank wine is served at a State Luncheon hosted by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

2012 The winery celebrates its 50th anniversary.

2013 Meaghan Frank, daughter of Fred Frank, joins the winery.

2015 Launches the 1886 Wine Experience and the HELM Series honoring the women of Dr. Frank.

2016 Named a Top 100 Winery by Wine & Spirits Magazine.

2019 Named a Top 100 Winery by Wine & Spirits Magazine.

2023 Introduces the Artist Series wines, showcasing innovative blends, varieties, and experimental winemaking techniques.

2023 Keuka and Seneca Estate vineyards certified sustainable under the New York Sustainable Winegrowing Program.

2023 Frederick Frank honored with the Perpetual Monteith Trophy Award for Exceptional Contributions to the American Wine Industry.

2023 Raises over \$10,000 for Ukrainian relief, enough to purchase an ambulance in Ukraine.

2024 The 1886 Wine Experience wins #1 Best Winery Tour in America for its 3rd consecutive year.

2024 Sarah Gumme joins as Winemaker.

2025 Marks the 40th anniversary of the winery’s first sparkling wine, continuing the celebration with the Brut 2021 "Cuvée '85."

DR. KONSTANTIN FRANK WINERY

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