

Essence of Korbel

Korbel is the first of the paintings in my Wine Country Door series. I have been anxious to get started and Korbel was the first on my list. While I wanted to get started in the Spring of 2019, my schedule had not afforded me the time to visit. And, admittedly, I was timid and reluctant. It just so happens that I had a dentist appointment the morning of Tuesday, July 23rd to replace a crown. It was a beautiful sunny day - one of those days where it was not too hot and not too cold. I left my appointment around 11:00, too late for water aerobics and too early to go home. I thought to myself - why not? I don't have to taste the wine, I've been there many times before. My mouth is numb from the procedure, but all I have to do is wander around and take pictures. So...reluctantly I took the 20 mile drive out to the Russian River Valley area to visit Korbel on my own.

It was such a beautiful drive!! I rolled the windows down, turned the radio up, and enjoyed the warm sun, the fresh air, and the stunning landscape. Driving out to the Russian River areas is one of my favorite drives in Sonoma County.

Korbel is a Champagne Cellar which, according to their signage, was established by the Korbel Brothers in 1883. I remember Korbel when I was a young girl for their Brandy. While I never drank Brandy, I do remember the name. However, they are mostly very well known for their Champagnes.

I arrived, grabbed my phone (camera), and began to meander outside. To the right, I spotted a Russian River area visitors center. I have been here many times, but I never realized they had a visitor's center!! What a treat to find this! I went in, explained (ever so briefly) about my art project and asked a few questions - and of course grabbed a handful of pamphlets that will eventually find themselves on one of my shelves awaiting to be tossed when I need more space! Afterwards, I headed outside towards the tasting room, taking many pictures along the way.

One of the many reasons I chose Korbel to start is because of the beauty of their site. The buildings are rustic brick buildings covered in what seems like an endless growth of green ivy. The gardens are exquisitely manicured throughout the grounds, and the Redwood Trees are the icing on the cake. The feeling is peaceful and comfortable, a feeling like you could just cuddle up anywhere on the grounds with a comfortable lawn chair and a good book.

I made my way to the tasting room and pondered how I could get a picture of the winery doors partially opened. I could sit there and wait for someone to go in or out, but I'm too impatient for that. So...I opened the door ever so slightly and stepped back to take a picture. Of course, the first one was not up to par...so I had to do this several times - wondering all along the way if anyone had noticed this strange behavior! I entered the tasting room, meandered a bit and

took more pictures. The great thing is - wineries are quite used to people taking pictures, so I'm sure this is all going unnoticed!!

I use symbols in my paintings to capture the essence of my experience. At this winery, the key symbols were Old Winery, Redwoods, Brick (lots of it!), Champagne, Bubbles, Flowers, and the majestic Russian River!

My painting expresses my experience visiting this winery over the years; I hope you enjoy it and find an opportunity to visit.

Cheers!!

Note: The original painting has elements of potential trademark infringement. As such, I digitally removed these particular elements from the items I am selling and replaced them with non trademark changes.