



Case Study: Ste. Michelle Winery

Ste. Michelle Wine Estates, Washington State's oldest and most acclaimed winery, was looking to coat the floors in their winery. Eric Brinkworth, Manager of Continuous Improvement in Quality, wanted to make sure that the system they used would not contribute to the manifestation of the chemical compound TriChloroAnisole or TCA. TCA is the main cause of "Cork Taint" which can give a bottle of wine a musty or moldy smell and taste and is believed to affect between 1% and 15% of wine bottles worldwide.

Eric consulted with Baldy Tonella of Coatings Unlimited, a long time Certified Contractor of Milamar Coatings, who is well known in the industry having worked in several wineries in Washington and Oregon. Baldy suggested ICO Floor Coating, our 100% solids, low VOC epoxy applied as a slurry broadcast system at a ¼" thickness. This would provide a seamless easy to clean surface that was tough and durable enough to withstand the moisture, traffic and heavy loads in the winery. Eric had the coating sent to a lab to ensure that the coating would not harbor TCA. The ICO Floor Coating was applied to glass plates and placed in a TCA contaminated environment for 2 months. They were then analyzed and no trace of TCA was found.



Ste. Michelle Winery also did not want an "industrial" look so Baldy recommended using local, light brown "Monterey Sand" and clear resin to provide a decorative, more natural look.

Coatings Unlimited first prepped the concrete by removing any existing coatings and getting a clean sound substrate so the epoxy could bond properly. They then mixed the resin and sand at ratio of 1 to 1 by volume. The slurry was then poured on the floor and trowelled to a smooth surface. Next they broadcast an equal amount of sand as used in the slurry until refusal. A squeegee coat of resin was then applied and broadcast into it again for a more uniform even look. Lastly after removing any loose sand and vacuuming the surface they applied a topcoat of the clear ICO Floor resin to get the desired finished texture.

The floor has been down for years now and Ste. Michelle Wine Estates is very pleased with the performance of the floor and plan on having Coatings Unlimited do more work in the future.

