



# WINE News

*K&L Staff Among the Vines at the Great Wineries in California*



## AUGUST 23, 2022 FEATURES

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## Domestic News: Roadtrip Edition

When you have some of the best wineries in the world nestled in your own backyard, it'd be a crying shame not to visit. Though our field trip program was paused for the past two years, we brought it back in full force this summer, thanks to the leadership of our Domestic Buyers, Ryan Woodhouse and Kaj Stromer.

We strongly believe that education helps foster a passionate, knowledgeable staff, and we've got the best staff in the biz! There's no better way to learn about wine than to meet winemakers, ask questions, and visit the vines in person. Team members from Redwood City, San Francisco, and Hollywood hopped in vans, cameras and pens in hand, to learn what they could about their local wine regions.

Redwood City set out for the ancient vines of Lodi with Jorge at the wheel. San Francisco toured Sonoma and the organic farm at Hanzell Winery. Hollywood hit the Sta. Rita Hills for some world-class Pinot.

In these pages, you'll find highlights from their trips, and the corresponding wines that we proudly carry on our shelves. Please, do ask a staff member about any of these bottles that pique your curiosity—we love nothing more than geeking out with customers about wine, and we're especially jazzed after visiting these tremendous sites. We hope our travel stories inspire you to set off and explore the amazing wineries throughout the great state of California. Cheers and bon voyage!

## In-Stock, Top-Notch California Gems

by Kaj Stromer, Domestic Buyer



### 2021 Massican Napa Valley Sauvignon Blanc \$29.99

Sauv Blanc is one of my top three favorite whites, and the style I prefer is made by Dan Petroski at Massican. It reminds me of the best bottlings of Quarz by Terlan and hints at the whites from Domaine Dagueneau. It takes aeration to fully blossom at this young stage, but then you're greeted by a symphony of finely tuned flavors: sexy, waxy lemon rind, green leaf, and tropical fruit. The wine is taut, expressive, and textural, with a complex streak of passion fruit and honeysuckle.



### 2020 Kalinda Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir \$21.99

The warm summer months call for easy-going, "chillable reds," and our Kalinda Pinot Noir fits the bill. You've heard it before but it bears repeating—we source our Kalinda wines from renowned producers throughout California. But, we offer this beauty at a price much lower than what you'd pay at the winery. It's complex and darkly colored, with cherry kirsch, cloves, baking spice, and enough acidity to give it lift on the palate. As always, Kalinda overdelivers.



### 2019 Dominus Napa Valley Bordeaux Blend \$309.95 100

#### Lisa Perotti-Brown 98WA 98JS

There can only be a few icons that define a region and Dominus is just that. This seminal wine has been a benchmark for Napa Valley Bordeaux-style reds for well over 30 years. Collectors around the world have made this wine a staple in their cellars. The 2019 is a blend of 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Cabernet Franc, and 6% Petit Verdot. Its inspiration is First Growth Bordeaux, but the wine is unapologetically Napa Valley. While it is undoubtedly not inexpensive, it is a relative steal compared to its peers and arguably a wine of the vintage.



# Astounding Ancient Vines in Contra Costa County and Lodi

by Ryan Woodhouse, Domestic Buyer



Way back before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, I had been planning a K&L staff trip to see some of the ancient vines that reside in Contra Costa County and Lodi. These are parts of California rarely thought of in a list of world-class wine regions, but, in fact, they're home to some of the most incredible vineyards in the country—if not the entire planet. Finally,

after almost three years of delay, our Redwood City sales team loaded up early one Monday morning and headed out on a whirlwind tour of some of the oldest vineyards in California.

First stop was the renowned Evangelho Vineyard in Antioch. Planted in 1888, Evangelho sits a stone's throw away from the San Joaquin River Delta. The vineyard is traversed by high-voltage transmission lines from the neighboring power station. To the west is a dilapidated golf driving range with tattered netting that waves in the morning breeze. To the east are some old industrial units, home to metal fabricators and a used tire shop. Hardly the most picturesque or romantic setting for a vineyard, but the folks who grow and make wine from here aren't in it for the vistas. They know that this site is one of the best in the region thanks to its proximity to the delta, deep sandy soils, and own-rooted vines that are now some 134 years old. The 30-foot-deep pure sandy soils are key to the vineyard's longevity. This sand, found throughout Contra Costa County, is inhospitable for the vine-destroying phylloxera aphid that decimated most of the world's vineyards in the late 1800s.



Evangelho is a field-blend of Zinfandel, Carignane, Mourvèdre, and others. It is farmed without irrigation using organic practices and is owned/leased by Bedrock Wine Co. Our team was amazed by the deep, sandy soils—it's literally like walking on a beach! Our visit was generously hosted by Bedrock co-owner Chris Cottrell, and our team was joined by a host of other winemakers who source from Evangelho and the other surrounding vineyards that share many characteristics of the region. Everyone spoke of how special this place is and emphasized the need to preserve these viticultural treasures from



the ever-creeching urban sprawl and development that has claimed so many old vineyards already.

We climbed back into the van to be whisked off to the next stop—the incredible Home Ranch Block of Del Barba Vineyards just down the road in Oakley. We were met by fourth-generation farmer Tommy Del Barba and treated to a great walk among his family's more than 130-year-old vines. Winemaker Julian Erggelet (of Erggelet Brothers Wines) hosted this visit and spoke eloquently on the history of the region, sustainability, and low-input farming. Once again it was incredible to see these ancient, gnarled vines bursting forth from pure sand soils.

Leaving Del Barba and Contra Costa County behind us, we headed east through the myriad of waterways in the Sacramento River Delta, eventually making our way to Lodi. The term "old vine" is perhaps more synonymous with Lodi than any other winegrowing region on the planet. Unfortunately, it has no legal or qualitative guarantees attached to it and has long been used purely as a marketing phrase. As we were about to see, however, Lodi is truly a treasure trove of ancient vines.

Our first stop in Lodi was the legendary Bechthold Vineyard, a bucket list visit for me. Bechthold is the oldest known planting of Cinsault in the world. Planted in 1886, these own-rooted, organically and dry-farmed vines are a sight to behold. Planted in a wide 10-foot-by-10-foot spacing and cross-cultivated, a visit here is truly stepping back into a bygone era. Bechthold has long been one of the most sought-after sources of Lodi fruit for numerous vintners. Randall Graham at Bonny Doon Vineyard stands out as a figure in the modern era to have recognized the special qualities of the vineyard, and he used it in many of his Rhône blends for several decades. One of my favorite wines from this vineyard every year is Tegan Passalacqua's rendition from Turley Wine Cellars. Another producer with a long history of working with



Bechthold fruit is Birichino. Co-founder and winemaker at Birichino, John Locke was our host at Bechthold. He spoke of his 20-plus years of working with the fruit. The health and vigor of these vines after 136 years in the ground is remarkable.

Another interesting story is that the vines were almost torn out in the early 2000s. For the vineyard's first 117 years it was thought to be a grape called Black Malvoisie. This grape was undesirable for making high-quality wine and so the fruit was being sold off for \$200 per ton and the vineyard was not profitable. In 2003 a professor at UC Davis ran some DNA checks on the vines discovering it was actually Cinsault!

The final vineyard visit of the day took us to Kirschenmann Vineyard in the Mokelumne River sub-AVA of Lodi. This jewel was planted in 1915 and is predominantly Zinfandel. The vineyard sits in an oxbow of the river and is surrounded by other historic plantings such as Bedrock Wine Co.'s Katushas' Vineyard just across the road. Kirschenmann is owned and farmed by Turley/Sandlands winemaker Tegan Passalacqua. Tegan had long worked with fruit from Kirschenmann and had always thought there was something



special about this specific terroir. However, it wasn't until long after he had purchased the vineyard that he made a fascinating discovery. A neighbor was excavating foundations for a new house in an adjacent vineyard. After digging down through six feet of typical fine sandy loam soil, they hit huge pieces of chalky limestone! Yep, limestone. This discovery made everything click—no wonder this site had always produced a particularly fragrant, elegant style of Zin! The cool airflow from the course of the river combined with the limestone sub-soil and 100-plus-year-old own-rooted vines is a magical combination.

After four vineyard visits and a few hundred miles on the van, it was time to eat and drink! Tegan had arranged a veritable feast at a fantastic restaurant in downtown Lodi called Gauntonio's. On a sidenote, if you're ever in this area you MUST stop here. In fact, it's worth the drive alone. The food is stunning with gracious hospitality to match. All the winemakers that had joined us on our old-vine tour had brought wines to lunch from the various vineyards and regions we had visited. We had a chance to taste through all of the wines, which was all the more meaningful having walked the vineyards that



morning. All in all it was a fantastic trip that really opened our eyes to the importance and quality of these ancient vineyards. The wines were excellent across the board and some of our favorites are listed below. I hope you'll take the time to check out these beautiful wines that are truly unique to California's vinous heritage.

## CoCo County

### 2018 Precedent "Evangelho Vineyard" Contra Costa County

**Zinfandel \$29.95** Nathan Kandler makes a stunning example from Evangelho. Predominantly Zinfandel with smaller inclusions of Mataro, Carignan, Palomino, and Muscat. Aged entirely in neutral French oak. The wine highlights the lift and perfume this site gives. It has the power and concentration of ancient vines with an elegance and purity to the fruit that is utterly captivating.

### 2019 Fine Disregard "Pato Vineyard" Contra Costa County Mataro (Mourvèdre) \$29.95 VN94

Pato is another ancient vineyard in Contra Costa County farmed by Bedrock. Mike Schiefer (assistant winemaker for Turley) makes this beauty under his own label, Fine Disregard. The 120-year-old vines provide the fruit, which Mike ferments 100% whole cluster and native yeast. The wine is then rested for 14 months in neutral 500L French oak puncheons. Pato is a slightly warmer site than Evangelho, producing deeper fruited wines. Whole clusters and large-format oak helps give the wine vibrancy and focus. It has a wonderful balance of exotic fruit and spice combined with Mataro's (Mourvèdre's) signature savory, earthy notes.

### 2021 Birichino "Little Big Block Vineyard - Old Vine" Contra Costa County Mourvèdre \$24.95

Sitting right next to Evangelho, this parcel of Mourvèdre was planted on its own roots in 1895 and is dry-farmed. John and Alex at Birichino are experts in teasing out wonderful character from these old vines with minimal interference. Their style sits on the more savory, bright-acidity side of things, and that works beautifully with this naturally concentrated, dark-fruited Mourvèdre. Think of crushed flowers, purple fruit, earth, leather, and toasted spices.

### 2019 Desire Lines "Winds of Change" California Red Blend \$24.95

**VN92 CG90** Not truly a CoCo County wine as it has a good chunk of Griffin's Lair Vineyard Syrah in it. I wanted to include Cody Rasmussen's Desire Lines wine here as it also incorporates old-vine



Carignan fruit from Evangelho, plus Mataro and Grenache from Oakley. Cody's day job as associate winemaker at Bedrock means he has access to prime fruit for his own label. Cody's skills shine through in this compelling blend that represents one of the best values in the store! Think very Northern Rhône-inspired meaty, peppery cool-climate Syrah with some added intensity and mid-palate flesh from the ancient vines of CoCo County. Stunning!

**2018 Erggelet Brothers "Del Barba Vineyard" Contra Costa County Zinfandel \$24.95** A classic Zin with wonderful purity of brambly fruit. Lush, soft textures and plenty of ripe berries and exotic spice. I love how this wine illustrates how Zin can be fruit-forward and fruit-driven but still remain wonderfully balanced and not sweet. The wine is actually a blend of old- and younger- vine fruit. Winemaker Julian Erggelet spoke to us about how he loves the vibrancy the younger vines add to the wine as he continues to learn the intricacies of this incredible site.

**2018 Once & Future "Oakley Road Vineyard" Contra Costa County Mataro (Mourvèdre) Insider Pricing VN93** From Del Barba's Oakley Road Block comes this rich and powerful ancient vine Mataro planted in 1890. Legendary Ravenswood winemaker Joel Peterson has forgotten more about making old-vine reds than most people will ever learn in a lifetime and his decades of expertise come to the fore with this stunning wine. Spicy exotic red fruits, bramble, scorched earth, and briary notes. Silky, pure, and engaging.

## CoCo County / Lodi

**2021 Birichino "Hic Svnt Dracones" California Old Vine Rosé of Cinsault - Mourvèdre \$24.95** This incredible rosé from the guys at Birichino perfectly bridges the gap from CoCo County to Lodi as it contains fruit from both regions. Birichino have long made beautiful rosé from old- vine sources in these areas, but in 2021 they decided to make a "reserve" bottling from two specific parcels of fruit: Mourvèdre from Little Big Block (c.1895) and Cinsault from Bechthold (c.1886). Deeper and more powerful than their typical Vin Gris bottling, this wine emulates the great rosés of Bandol as

comically depicted on the label that is a spin on Domaine Tempier's famed bottling.

## Lodi

Moving to Lodi now we start off with another great rosé wine:

### 2021 Lorenza "True" Lodi Rosé \$21.95

Lorenza is a super cool mother and daughter project focused on rosé production. Melinda and her daughter Michele source fruit from a few different old-vine sources across the region. Fruit is deliberately picked early for straight-press rosé. The 2021 blend is 44% Mourvèdre, 27% Carignan, 17% Cinsault, and 12% Grenache. The fruit gets a quick foot stomp then straight on the press on a gentle cycle. The wine is super fresh and vibrant with alpine strawberry, crushed raspberry, cranberry, fresh picked herbs, and citrus pith acidity. A great summer sipper and infinitely versatile with food.

### 2021 Birichino "Pétulant Naturel" Mokelumne River Pet Nat Sparkling Rosé of Carignane \$24.95

This wine was a particular favorite at the Guantonio's lunch in the Lodi heat after walking through the vineyards all morning! A bright, juicy, mouthwatering Pét-Nat rosé of old-vine Carignane from Montague Vineyard planted in 1930. Birichino's dialed-in Pet Nat method of reintroducing sweet grape juice that is frozen after harvest to kick off the secondary bottle ferment, displaying all of the Pét-Nat deliciousness that you want without all of the Pét-Nat explosions and uberfunk that you don't. These guys make the best Pét-Nats in California, bar none.

**2021 Turley "Bechthold Vineyard" Lodi Cinsault \$29.95** I buy a case of this wine every year. I love the bright, fresh, floral lift and purity of Turley's Bechthold Cinsault, which is picked fairly early in order to target moderate alcohol and is fermented with some whole clusters. This is quite different from most Turley wines that tend to be richer and fuller bodied. The Bechthold Cinsault is almost Gamay-like in appearance, character, and application. A beautifully versatile wine that loves a slight chill. Fantastic value!



### 2018 Precedent "Kirschenmann Vineyard" Mokelumne River Lodi Zinfandel \$29.95

Precedent winemaker Nathan Kandler is good friends with Tegan who owns Kirschenmann and thus he's on a very short list of people that Tegan trusts enough to get some of this precious fruit. Nathan's bottling perfectly illustrates the qualities of this site with pure Zinfandel red brambly fruit and an open-knit structure that highlights Kirschenmann's unique floral aromas and delicacy. I tasted this wine as a very young barrel sample with Nathan in early 2019 and have been waiting ever since to buy the wine once he released it. This is a very special Zinfandel from a very special vineyard.

# Central Coast's Pinot Epicenter Is the Sta. Rita Hills

by Kaj Stromer, Domestic Buyer



The Sta. Rita Hills region has become one of the most important AVAs along California's central coast, if not all of California. Located in the northwest corner of Santa Barbara County, the area benefits from its sandy soils, its proximity to the ocean, as well as the transverse hills that allow for the daily influx of cooling ocean air and fog. All combined, this is perfect terrain for making world-class

Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. We recently took a day-long trip to the area to check in on some of our favorite winery partners.

The day kicked off at Melville Estate Winery. Proprietor and vinegrower, Chad Melville gave us a master class in vineyard management resulting in the team assisting with a little bit of canopy management. After a quick tour of the winery as well as some barrel sampling, he led us through a tasting of the current releases and a few gems from the cellar. Founded in 1996, Melville has been a driving force in the qualitative rise of the Sta. Rita Hills as one of the pre-eminent winegrowing regions. As Chad told us, "We take great pride in being an estate...owning, farming, and growing wine from our land." Frankly speaking, the wines have never been better.

The latest batch of releases have received tremendous critical press and the wines are flat out delicious. The standard bearer estate wines include the **2020 Melville "Estate" Sta. Rita Hills Chardonnay \$34.95**, the **2020 Melville "Estate" Sta. Rita Hills Pinot Noir \$38.95 91WA 91W&S**, and the **2018 Melville "Estate" Sta. Rita Hills Syrah \$34.95 95WE 94JD 94W&S 93VN 92WA**. We've got a limited supply of the **2020 Melville "Terraces" Sta. Rita Hills Pinot Noir \$69.99**, and my favorite, the **2020 Melville "Block M" Sta. Rita Hills Pinot Noir \$74.95**. Finally, also available in very limited quantities is the **2019 Melville "Donna's" Sta. Rita Hills Syrah \$59.99 96JD 95WA 94VN 91W&S**.

The natural progression of our tour led us west to see Greg Brewer of Brewer-Clifton and Diatom. Named Winemaker of the Year 2021 (*Wine Enthusiast*), Greg has been one of the most important players in the area along with being the original winemaker at Melville. He has spent the entirety of his three-decade career dedicated to crafting cool-climate Chardonnay and Pinot Noir from this finite stretch of land. Greg walked us through three flights from multiple vintages of his Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, and a "stem-inclusion" demo on his

Machado Vineyard Pinot Noir. There are few experiences that can equal time spent learning from the Jedi Master of winemaking, Greg Brewer.

Though supplies of his wines are always limited, we currently have the **2020 Brewer-Clifton Sta. Rita Hills Chardonnay \$34.95** available as well as two vintages of his mind-blowing single vineyard Pinot Noir. Both the **2017 Brewer-Clifton "Machado" Sta. Rita Hills Pinot Noir \$79.95 96JD 95WE 94WA 94VN** and the **2018 Brewer-Clifton "Machado" Sta. Rita Hills Pinot Noir \$79.99 97JD 96WE 95WA 92VN** represent the highest levels that can be reached for ethereal Pinot Noir.



From Greg's austere warehouse in Lompoc we headed south and then east on to the Santa Rosa Road. The Santa Rosa acts as the "unofficial" path through the southern half of the appellation.

Our next appointment was with one of the most fascinating relative newcomers to the valley. Situated just 13 miles from the Pacific, The Hilt's perch in the southwest corner of the valley makes it undeniably exposed to the ceaseless wind and weather from the ocean. As winemaker Matt Dees explained, "These sites are the worst place for a grape grower, but the best one for a winemaker." Matt has quickly made his mark on the Santa Barbara wine scene. As the winemaker for Jonata, he has crafted many of the top-rated wines of the entire region. At this state-of-the-art facility, they produce not only The Hilt wines but Jonata as well. The winery sits just astride two of the most important vineyards in the region; the Radian and Bentrack vineyards. A quick and bumpy four-wheel drive took us up and over the hill behind the winery to reveal what could only be described as a winegrowing Shangri-La. The vineyards have multiple aspects, a variety of soils (mostly decomposed sea floor and sand), and several different microclimates.







*The K&L Hollywood team with Wynn Solomon (third from left), winemaker at Peake Ranch.*

The wines from The Hilt are allocated and always in short supply. Fortunately, we recently received a shipment of the estate and single-vineyard wines. I strongly urge you to grab them while they're available.

The precise **2018 The Hilt "Estate" Sta. Rita Hills Chardonnay \$44.95 94JD 92VN** is aged in 34% new French oak, 56% neutral French oak, and 10% stainless steel for 11 months. A multitude of clones go into the making of the **2018 The Hilt "Estate" Sta. Rita Hills Pinot Noir \$44.95 93JD** aged in 8% new French oak and 92% neutral French oak for 11 months. These two single vineyard wines are the pride and joy for The Hilt.

A mere 225 cases were produced of the **2019 The Hilt "Bentrock Vineyard" Sta. Rita Hills Chardonnay \$99.99**. Only two blocks are selected for this gem, which is aged in 33% new French oak, the balance in second and third use barrels. This is Grand Cru quality for the region.

Rounding out the stellar lineup is the **2019 The Hilt "Radian Vineyard" Sta. Rita Hills Pinot Noir \$99.99 97JD 96AG**. This really raises the bar. There's no question that Matt and the team will do all they can to make the greatest wine from this hallowed terroir. Fourteen different blocks of Dijon clone go into the making of the Radian Vineyard Pinot Noir. Aged for 12 months in 100% neutral French oak. A miniscule 309 cases were produced.

It's obvious that the team at The Hilt will spare no expense to make the greatest wines they can from this hallowed terroir. What a treat to see it all up close.



We wrapped up our tour by visiting Peake Ranch situated well to the southeastern corner of the Sta. Rita Hills. Peake Ranch was founded by John Wagner. This is a 105-acre parcel of which 50 acres are planted to vines; predominantly Chardonnay and Pinot Noir but with a bit of Grenache and Syrah as well. The winemaking is now helmed by Wynne Solomon, another winemaking alumna from Melville.

The wines have caught the attention of wine critics and wine pros alike. We're currently offering their **2019 Peake Ranch Santa Barbara County Chardonnay \$39.95 95JD 95WA 93WE**, which is a blend of their Sierra Madre Vineyard and Peake Ranch Vineyards aged in 100% French oak, of which 39% is new.

The **2019 Peake Ranch Sta. Rita Hills Pinot Noir \$39.95 95WA 94JD 94WE 91VN** is a composite of the John Sebastiano and Peake Ranch vineyards aged in 100% French oak, of which 45% is new. I think we've witnessed the wine style exhibit a more elegant expression as Wynne took over winemaking duties from Paul Lato.

Finally, our best seller, the **2019 Peake Ranch "Bellis Noir" Sta. Rita Hills Red \$39.95 96JD 94WA** is a unique blend of Syrah, Grenache, and Pinot Noir. This non-traditional blend checks a lot of boxes in terms of complexity and grace.



# San Francisco Team Heads to Hanzell's Organic Farm

The team at our San Francisco location headed north to Sonoma, to meet with Michael McNeill, winemaker at Hanzell Winery, as well as the chickens, sheep, pigs, cats, turkeys, deer, and two Maremma livestock guardian dogs, Scout and Radley, who keep the vineyard humming. Nestled at the foot of the Mayacamas Mountains, Hanzell produces world-class Pinot and Chardonnay while embodying a deep commitment to environmental sustainability.

The winery's "bio farm" approach allows them to reduce their carbon footprint by limiting all outside interventions and making use of natural nutrient cycles, just as farming has been for centuries before chemicals were introduced. It's a place where biodynamic principles meet science-based farm management systems, with a goal of one day being a 100% self-sustained operation. They are CCOF Certified Organic and any material brought on property from outside sources

are certified organic solely from manufacturers with strong ethical, social, and environmental platforms. You can feel good about drinking these wines and you will most definitely feel good while drinking them, because they are gorgeous.



**2016 Hanzell "Estate" Sonoma Valley Chardonnay**  
\$39.95 95WE 94VN 93WA

**2019 Hanzell "Sebella" Sonoma Valley Chardonnay**  
\$24.99 94JS 93WE

**2017 Hanzell Sonoma Valley Cabernet Sauvignon**  
\$129.95 95VN 94WE

**2016 Hanzell "Estate" Sonoma Valley Pinot Noir** \$79.95 94JS  
93WA 91VN 91WS





## Cellar Selections

by Kaj Stromer, Domestic Buyer

We are constantly scouring the vaults of our winery partners looking for great wines, great deals, and back vintages. Here are a few of our most interesting, ageworthy recent acquisitions for your wine collection.



**2015 Larkmead "Solari" Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon \$199.95 99JD 97JS 97WE** For those of you who treasure history, make note that Larkmead is one of the oldest family-owned wineries in Napa Valley, tracing its history back to 1895.

Over the last two decades Cam and Kate Solari Baker have been transforming the property into a world-class wine estate by replanting vineyards and building a new state-of-the-art facility. The Solari bottling is one of the prestige cuvées to come off this property. It's known for its silky smoothness in its youth but can easily evolve for a decade or two. Year in and year out, Solari is Larkmead's greatest wine. It's 100% Cabernet Sauvignon aged for 19 months in mostly new Tonnellerie Demptos oak barrels. 565 cases were produced.



**2019 Sinegal "Details" Sonoma County Cabernet Sauvignon \$49.95 96VN** In just under a decade, Sinegal has become one of the rising stars of Napa Valley as well as a critics' darling. They've acquired a terrifically situated location that's long been known for grape growing and then assembled an all-star winemaking team; it's no wonder Sinegal is turning heads!

The 2019 vintage marks the second release of Details, comprising a selection of fruit from Sonoma County's best hillside terroirs. Owner David Sinegal acquired this historic St. Helena estate in 2013, but it's been planted to vineyards since the 1880s. Veteran grower Jim Barbour tends to the vines while Ryan Knoth—who's worked with David Abreu, Michel Rolland, and Philippe Melka—crafts the wines. The estate is run by Trevor Antognini, who managed such lofty estates as Peter Michael and Sloan. This dream team of winemaking employs traditional farming techniques combined with state-of-the-art winemaking. The estate has spared no expense to secure their rise to the top tier of California winemaking, and needs to be on your radar.



**2018 Carte Blanche "Beckstoffer Missouri Hopper Vineyard" Oakville Cabernet Sauvignon (Insider Pricing) 97JD 97JS 97WA 97VN** Carte Blanche may not be a household name, but these wines are backed by an unusually high level of pedigree. Carte Blanche is owned by the same family that owns Haut-Brion and La Mission Haut-Brion in Bordeaux. They knew that eventually they needed to put down roots in Napa Valley and did just that

in 2007. Initially they hired Luc Morlet to sculpt their wines. Then rising star Helen Keplinger took over. Named 2012 Winemaker of the Year by *Food & Wine*, Helen has worked with the likes of Heidi Peterson Barrett, Kathy Joseph, David Abreu, and Michel Rolland. During her meteoric rise, she spent two years as the winemaker for Bryant Family. With a great vineyard, talented winemaker, and topflight vintage, it didn't take much more to get me behind this opportunity. But to sweeten the deal, we came up with an exclusive Insider Advantage price just for you. Be sure to click through to see the special price, which we can only offer "offline." With scores of 97 points across the board, this is a sure thing.

### K&L REDWOOD CITY

3005 El Camino Real, Redwood City, CA 94061

**P** (650) 364-8544 **F** (650) 364-4687

**HOURS** Tues-Sun 11am-7pm (Closed Mondays)

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### KLWINES.COM

Toll Free (877) KLWINES (877) 559-4637

Email: [customerservice@klwines.com](mailto:customerservice@klwines.com)

### K&L HOLLYWOOD

1400 Vine Street, Hollywood, CA 90028

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