

**SECOND EDITION
FULLY REVISED AND UPDATED**

Wine Spectator's
CALIFORNIA WINE

by James Laube



**A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO WINERIES,
WINES, VINTAGES AND VINEYARDS, WITH RATINGS
AND TASTING NOTES FOR 5000 WINES**

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APPENDIX 2

WINERY STAR RATINGS

5-STAR WINERIES
(*****)

Abreu Vineyards
Araujo Estate Wines
Arrowood Vineyards & Winery
Bryant Family Vineyard
Caymus Vineyards
Colgin
Robert Craig
Dalla Valle Vineyards
Diamond Creek Vineyards
Dominus Estate
Dunn Vineyards
Etude Wines
Forman Vineyard
Grace Family Vineyards
Harlan Estate
Kistler Vineyards
Kongsgaard Wines
Marcassin
Mer Soleil
Peter Michael Winery
Opus One
Pahlmeyer
Ramey Wine Cellars
Screaming Eagle
Robert Talbott Vineyards

4 TO 5-STAR
WINERIES
(****-*****)

4-STAR WINERIES
(****)

Altamura Vineyards & Winery
S. Anderson Vineyard
Anderson's Conn Valley Vineyards
Arns
Au Bon Climat
Barbour Vineyards
Beaulieu Vineyard
Bernardus Winery
Robert Biale Vineyards
Byington Winery
Byron Vineyards & Winery
Calera Wine Co.
Cardinale
Chalk Hill Winery
David Coffaro Vineyard & Winery

Constant
Cornerstone Cellars
David Arthur Vineyards
Del Dotto
Tom Eddy
El Molino Winery
Fife Vineyards
Flowers
Groth Vineyards & Winery
Hartwell Vineyards
Howell Mountain Vineyards
Limerick Lane Cellars
Livingston Vineyards
Mendelson Vineyard
Miner Family Vineyards
Moraga
Robert Mueller Cellars
Paradigm
Quintessa
A. Rafanelli Winery
Reverie Winery
Rudd Estate
Saucelito Canyon Vineyard
Silver Oak Cellars
Snowden
Sonoma-Loeb
Stony Hill Vineyard
Swanson Vineyards
The Terraces
Viader Vineyards & Winery
White Cottage

ARAUJO ESTATE WINES (★★★★★)

Calistoga, Napa Valley

Founded: 1990. **Owner:** Bart & Daphne Araujo.

Winemaker: Francoise Peschon.

MAJOR WINES: PRICE, CASES, RATING

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley

Eisele Vineyard

(\$100, 2,500)

★★★★★

Sauvignon Blanc Napa Valley

Eisele Vineyard

(\$22, 1,200)

★★★

Syrah Napa Valley Eisele Vineyard

(\$50, 350)

★★★★★

WINERY DATA

Case Production: 4,000. **Acres Owned:** 41 acres in Napa Valley. **Varietals by Acre:** Cabernet Franc (1 acre), Cabernet Sauvignon (28), Petit Verdot (1), Sauvignon Blanc (5), Syrah (5), Viognier (1).

Since the 1970s, Eisele Vineyard, situated at the foot of the Palisades mountains southeast of Calistoga, has proven to be one of California's greatest vineyards, with a distinguished track record for yielding consistently excellent, distinctive and ageworthy wines. In years such as 1974 (under the Conn Creek label), 1975, 1978, 1979, and 1985, the wines have shown uncommon richness, with thick, chewy, earthy tannins and a complex core of currant, berry and mineral flavors. They are also amazingly ageworthy, keeping their youthful, vibrant personalities for up to two decades.

The vineyard was originally planted by Milt and Barbara Eisele. In 1990, the Eiseles sold it to Bart and Daphne Araujo, who have continued to make genuinely sensational wines. The Araujos undertook a major overhaul, replanting many vines, adding new grape varieties (Petit Verdot, Syrah, Sangiovese, Sauvignon Blanc, and Viognier), building a handsome new winery and aging caves. Along with the superb Cabernet, the winery makes a small amount of equally stunning Syrah (500 cases) and a very fine Sauvignon Blanc.

TASTING NOTES

CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY EISELE VINEYARD (★★★★★): Magnificent Cabernet, easily among the finest. Uniformly dark and rich with complex, concentrated fruit flavors and supple, polished tannins, marked by a characteristic mineral edge. Ages exceptionally well.

SYRAH NAPA VALLEY EISELE VINEYARD (★★★★★): This wine shares the Cabernet's power and finesse, with rich, thick, earthy currant and meaty flavors. No track record yet for aging, but it has all the right stuff. Limited production makes it hard to get.