

BETTANE & DESSEAUME
THE WORLD'S GREATEST WINES

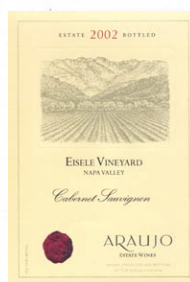


United States – California – Napa Valley – Calistoga – Red and white

Araujo Estate Wines

The Eisele vineyard, which takes its name from its first owner, is the object of a cult like no other among Californian wine lovers. Planted with Cabernet Sauvignon in 1964, it soon started to produce wines of extraordinary body that acquired exceptional firmness with age. Thanks to very careful aging, Joseph Phelps gave them more polish in 1978 and 1985 but was not always able to avoid excessive alcohol, the drawback of a very warm microclimate. Bart Araujo bought the vineyard in 1990 and decided to furnish the winery with the best possible equipment in order to take it to an even higher level of quality. Ambitious, determined, and assisted by Françoise Peschon (an enologist from Luxembourg), he adopted organic methods in the vineyard. With the advice of Michel Rolland, whose flair he had admired at Harlan Estate, he started to harvest with greater precision, obtaining astonishingly dense and harmonious wines which are sure to become tomorrow's classics. A lover of white wines, he opted for Sauvignon Blanc and planted the best clones. The results, opposite in style to that adopted by Mondavi, have been thrilling. Deeper, more complex, and made from riper berries, it has become the new benchmark for this varietal in California.

If it were not for the vines, the poor, volcanic soil of the Napa Hills would support nothing but rattle snakes.



VINE VARIETY

40 acres (16 hectares), red: Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah;
white: Sauvignon.

OUR FAVORITE WINES

Naturally this estate's flagship wine is its Cabernet Sauvignon from the Eisele vineyard, a typically monumental, slow-aging (and remarkably well-made) northern Napa Valley red. We are just as impressed, however, with the first Syrah vintages from this property. These are astonishingly deep and complex – marvelous vehicles for conveying the individual character of this great terroir.



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