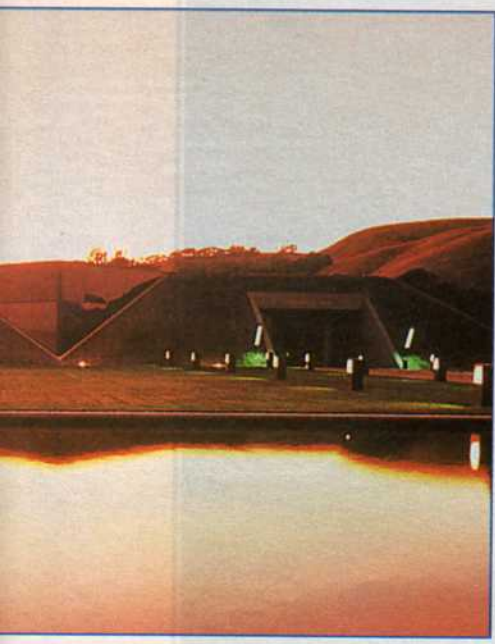


BEST WINERIES UNDER TEN YEARS OLD

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Chateau Potelle | Kent Rasmussen |
| Codorniu Napa | St. Supery |
| Dalla Valle | Robert Sinskey Vyds. |
| Domaine Carneros | Swanson Vyds. |
| La Jota | Truchard Vyds. |



Codorniu Napa

BEST UNDERRATED NAPA WINERIES

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Bouchaine Vineyards | Louis Martini |
| Carneros Creek | Merryvale Vineyards |
| Flora Springs | Mont St. John Cellars |
| Goosecross Cellars | Stonegate Winery |
| Charles Krug | ZD Wines |

WHERE TO GET THE OLD STUFF

Want to drink those baby Cabernets? You'd like a bottle with a little age on it? There are several Valley wineries that offer older vintages from their wine cellars. The good thing about buying at the winery is you know the wine has been properly stored.

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Beringer | Louis Martini |
| Carneros Creek | Raymond Winery |
| Clos du Val | Sterling |

TOP 10 LISTS

REDS



CABERNET SAUVIGNON/MERITAGE

There are several pure Cabernets on the list, but, by and large, we feel the best red wines coming out of Napa are the Meritage-style blends, no matter what they are called. A caveat for this Top Ten and all of the other varietal lists: Bear in mind that this is a list of producers, not specific vintages or bottlings. These are the producers who, over the years, have consistently produced the best red wine from Bordeaux varieties coming from Napa.

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Beringer | Dominus |
| Cain Cellars | Dunn Vineyards |
| Caymus Vineyards | Flora Springs |
| Chateau Montelena | Louis Martini |
| Diamond Creek | Robert Mondavi |

ZINFANDEL PRODUCERS, NO NUMBERS PLEASE

The surprising thing here is that there is very little Zinfandel made in Napa, but most of it is outstanding. This is the only list we felt was really necessary to go over ten. Here's a lucky dozen.

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Buehler | Franciscan |
| Burgess | Frog's Leap |
| Chateau Potelle | La Jota |
| Clos du Val | Lamborn Family Vyds. |
| Deer Park Winery | Storybook Mountain |
| Elyse | The Terraces |

PINOT NOIR

Ten years ago there would have been no entries on this list. When we started putting it together this year, we were doubtful that we could come up with ten outstanding Napa Pinots. Well, erase that thought. It was easy.

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Acacia | Saintsbury |
| Bouchaine | Robert Sinskey |
| Carneros Creek | Sterling |
| Robert Mondavi | Truchard |
| Kent Rasmussen | ZD |

MERLOT

You won't find any tutti-fruitti Merlots here, these are the genuine products. These producers make Merlot as if it mattered.

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| Clos du Val | Franciscan |
| Clos Pegase | Merryvale |
| Cosentino | Newton |
| Cuvaison | Shafer |
| Duckhorn | Sterling |

BEST OF THE ALTERNATIVE WINES

This is the ABC group. Anything But Chardonnay/Cabernet. We suspect this list will grow fast. Note that here we are talking about specific wines, not producers, since almost no one except Joseph Phelps has a track record with these varietals.

- La Jota Viognier
- Joseph Phelps Mistral bottlings of Rhône varietals
- San Pietro Vara Charbono
- Swanson Sangiovese
- Stags' Leap Petite Syrah
- Truchard Syrah