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CLOSING THOUGHT
"THE PHILOSOPHY OF WINE"

PHILOSOPHY

“Welcome to the Cliff House. Our colorful history, beautiful setting and dining tradition have made us a San Francisco landmark, and we are delighted that you have chosen to join us.

To accompany your meal, we invite you to choose from among our carefully selected California wines which are from all around the state, and in particular, from some of the excellent vineyards in our neighboring counties here in northern California.”

Excerpt From Cliff House Wine List Circa 1985



We are committed to carrying on this rich tradition of San Francisco dining, continuing with our award winning wine list which remains predominantly Californian. Our well-trained staff are pleased to assist you in finding suitable wines to accompany and enhance your Cliff House experience.



“If a man deliberately abstains from wine to such an extent that he does serious harm to his nature, he will not be free from blame.”

SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS



Proprietors: Dan & Mary Hountalas
General Manager: Ralph Burgin
Wine Director: Jaime Wong



Recipient Of
WINE SPECTATOR'S
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE
SINCE 2004

Our corkage fee is \$25 per 750ml bottle for the first two bottles, \$35 per bottle for any additional bottles. Magnum corkage is \$45.

HALF BOTTLES

Never worry about sounding like a pessimist over whether the bottle is half full or empty. These little gems arrive in the half size.

Half bottles or “splits” are perfect for trying out several different bottles of wine without drinking too much. Instead of one or two full size bottles, you may be able to try three or four half bottles. Half bottles also allow you to be more specific on which wine to pair with your meal. If coursing your dinner, you have the ability to choose wines that will compliment your menu selections without having too much wine left over.

In instances where half the table orders dishes that suit a white wine and the other half of the table orders red wine specific meals, half bottles solve the problem of compromising on one bottle which will suit every menu option.

Another benefit of the half bottle format is that you do not have to invest in a full sized bottle to try a particular wine. Try something new or different that you have not had before.

If you have questions regarding varietal types, please refer to the corresponding page in this book for further explanation about the wine type.

HALF BOTTLE SELECTIONS

BIN			
950	NV	BILLECART-SALMON <i>BRUT ROSÉ, CHAMPAGNE, FRANCE</i>	80
951	NV	VEUVE CLICQUOT <i>"YELLOW LABEL" BRUT - CHAMPAGNE</i>	59
952	2015	MATANZAS CREEK <i>SONOMA COUNTY - SAUVIGNON BLANC</i>	22
953	2014	MASON <i>YOUNT MILL VINEYARD, NAPA VALLEY - SAUVIGNON BLANC</i>	23
954	2015	AU BON CLIMAT <i>SANTA BARBARA - CHARDONNAY</i>	25
955	2015	J. LOHR <i>"RIVERSTONE" ARROYO SECO, MONTEREY COUNTY - CHARDONNAY</i>	27
956	2014	CARMEL ROAD <i>MONTEREY - PINOT NOIR</i>	21
957	2014	FRANK FAMILY <i>CARNEROS, NAPA VALLEY - PINOT NOIR</i>	34
958	2014	McINTYRE <i>SANTA LUCIA HIGHLANDS - PINOT NOIR</i>	42
959	2013	KEENAN <i>NAPA VALLEY - MERLOT</i>	41
960	2015	DASHE <i>SONOMA COUNTY - ZINFANDEL</i>	31
961	2013	KLINKER BRICK <i>LODI - ZINFANDEL, OLD VINE</i>	25
962	2013	TABLAS CREEK <i>ESPRIT DE TABLAS, PASO ROBLES</i>	66
963	2013	FAUST <i>NAPA VALLEY - CABERNERT SAUVIGNON (ORGANIC/BIODYNAMIC)</i>	67
964	2011	GRGICH HILLS <i>ESTATE, NAPA VALLEY - CABERNET SAUVIGNON</i>	62
965	2009	LANCASTER ESTATE <i>ALEXANDER VALLEY - CABERNET SAUVIGNON</i>	92
966	2010	OPUS ONE <i>NAPA VALLEY - MERITAGE</i>	255

CHAMPAGNE OR SPARKLING WINE

By tradition, only those sparkling wines that come from the Champagne region of France are allowed to be called Champagne. In other regions, these wines are given other names. In Italy, it is called Spumante. Spaniards call it Cava. Here in the United States, we just call it Sparkling wine. Whatever name it's given throughout the world, we just think it's great.

Use it for a toast, drink it with toast. Whatever the occasion, nothing imparts more rejoice and happiness than seeing the tiny bubbles float to the top of the glass.

We like to serve our "sparklers" as fresh as possible. Please finish your glass and we'll pour you another from the chilled bottle; this way you will have a nice cold glass of sparkling wine every time.

"In victory you deserve champagne, in defeat, you need it."

- Napoleon Bonaparte

SAUVIGNON BLANC OR FUMÉ BLANC

Are they the same? The answer is yes.

Fumé Blanc is a name invented by Robert Mondavi in 1968. After making a sweeter style Sauvignon Blanc in 1966 and 1967, Mondavi made a dry version in 1968. To denote this change to his customers, Mondavi came up with "Fumé Blanc" named after Pouilly-Fumé, one of the most popular dry-style Loire Valley versions.

The word "Fumé" literally translates into "smoke", but this has nothing to do with a "smoky" characteristic in the wine. The term refers to the morning fog that covers the Loire Valley and is "as thick as smoke." Any "smoky" trait that can be found in some Fumé Blancs as well as Sauvignon Blancs is done in the winemaking process with the aging done in toasted oak barrels.

Warmer climates lead to Sauvignon Blancs that display more melon tones, whereas cooler climates bring out a pronounced grassiness in the wine. Other notable aromas and flavors attributed to Sauvignon Blanc are bell pepper or grapefruit. Some Sauvignon Blancs are blended with Semillion to add richness and an element of fig to the wine.

CHAMPAGNE AND SPARKLING WINE

BIN			
200	NV	BILLECART-SALMON <i>BRUT ROSÉ, CHAMPAGNE, FRANCE</i>	154
201	2004	DOM PERIGNON <i>BRUT, ÉPERNAY, FRANCE</i>	340
202	NV	GRUET <i>BLANC DE NOIR, NEW MEXICO</i>	36
203	NV	J WINERY <i>"CUVÉE 20" RUSSIAN RIVE VALLEY</i>	45
204	NV	MOËT & CHANDON <i>"IMPÉRIAL" BRUT ROSE, ÉPERNAY, FRANCE</i>	118
205	2009	ROBERT HUNTER <i>SONOMA VALLEY</i>	52
206	NV	ROEDERER ESTATE <i>BRUT, ANDERSON VALLEY</i>	43
207	2012	SCHRAMSBERG <i>BLANC DE NOIR, NAPA VALLEY</i>	60
208	NV	TAITTINGER <i>"LA FRANCAISE" BRUT, REIMS, FRANCE</i>	72
209	NV	VA DE VI <i>BY GLORIA FERRER, ULTRA CUVÉE, SONOMA COUNTY</i>	39
210	NV	VEUVE CLICQUOT <i>"YELLOW LABEL" BRUT, FRANCE</i>	110

SAUVIGNON BLANC AND FUME BLANC

BIN			
100	2015	CAKEBREAD <i>NAPA VALLEY</i>	62
101	2016	CHARLES KRUG <i>ST. HELENA, NAPA VALLEY</i>	30
102	2014	CLIFF LEDE <i>NAPA VALLEY</i>	39
103	2014	DAVIS ESTATES <i>RUTHERFORD, NAPA VALLEY</i>	32
104	2015	DUCKHORN <i>NAPA VALLEY</i>	58
105	2015	ECO TERRENO <i>"CUVÉE ACERO", ALEXANDER VALLEY</i>	32
106	2015	FERRARI CARANO <i>SONOMA COUNTY, FUME BLANC</i>	34
107	2015	FROG'S LEAP <i>RUTHERFORDM, NAPA VALLEY</i>	50
108	2015	GROTH <i>NAPA VALLEY</i>	39
109	2014	MARGERUM WINE CO. <i>HAPPY CANYON, SANTA BARBARA</i>	33

CHARDONNAY

In California, no other vinous grape varietal has been planted more than Chardonnay. Chardonnay has become synonymous with California wine.

Chardonnay has a distinct, yet delicate aroma. It often smells like apples, lemon, peaches or tropical fruit. Because of its delicacy, even a small percentage of another grape varietal blended into Chardonnay will often completely dominate its aroma and flavor.

Because of its delicacy, Chardonnay is very expressive of its winemaking technique and appellation of origin. It is a grape that is planted throughout most of the grape growing regions of California.

Different growing regions attribute to different styles of Chardonnay.

Russian River Valley, Sonoma and Mendocino Counties: apples, pears and peaches

Carneros, Sonoma and Napa Counties: flinty and green apple

Monterey County: citric and lemony

Santa Maria Valley, Santa Barbara County: pineapple and tropical

Edna Valley, San Luis Obispo County: apricot and fleshy

CHARDONNAY

BIN

LIGHT & LIVELY

1	2014	FROG'S LEAP <i>NAPA VALLEY</i>	48
2	2013	LIOCO <i>DEMUTH VINEYARD, ANDERSON VALLEY</i>	120
3	2014	NEYERS "304" <i>SONOMA COUNTY</i>	42
4	2014	RODNEY STRONG <i>CHALK HILL, SONOMA COUNTY</i>	39

WELL BALANCED

5	2013	ARTESA <i>ESTATE RESERVE, NAPA VALLEY</i>	70
6	2015	BACIGALUPI <i>RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY</i>	108
7	2014	BROADSIDE "WILD FERMENT" <i>CENTRAL COAST</i>	36
8	2014	CHALK HILL <i>SONOMA COAST</i>	45
9	2014	FLOWERS <i>SONOMA COAST</i>	75
10	2013	HANZELL <i>ESTATE, HANZELL VINEYARD, SONOMA VALLEY</i>	105
11	2012	HARTFORD COURT <i>STONE CÔTE VINEYARD, SONOMA COAST</i>	138
12	2014	HOOK & LADDER <i>RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY</i>	36
13	2015	KENDALL-JACKSON <i>GRAND RESERVE, MONTEREY-SANTA BARBARA</i>	37
14	2014	LA CREMA <i>SONOMA COAST</i>	39
15	2014	SCHUG <i>CARNEROS</i>	47
16	2014	SONOMA-CUTRER <i>RUSSIAN RIVER RANCHES, SONOMA VALLEY</i>	39
17	2013	STEWART CELLARS <i>SONOMA MOUNTAIN</i>	48
18	2012	ZEPALTAS <i>CHARLES HEINTZ VINEYARD, SONOMA COAST</i>	90

FULL-BODIED

19	2013	CHAMISAL <i>EDNA VALLEY</i>	38
20	2013	CUVAISON <i>NAPA VALLEY - CARNEROS</i>	45
21	2014	FRANK FAMILY <i>NAPA VALLEY</i>	68
22	2013	MORGAN "HIGHLAND" <i>SANTA LUCIA HIGHLANDS</i>	56
23	2015	ROMBAUER <i>CARNEROS</i>	72
24	2014	THE CALLING <i>DUTTON RANCH, RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY</i>	60

PINOT GRIS

Pinot Gris and Pinot Grigio are actually the same white grape, with two different names. In Italy and California it's known as Grigio, while in Oregon and France it's known as Gris. Other countries use the terms interchangeably. The Pinot Grigio grape is a mutation of the Pinot Noir grape, which is red. Pinot Blanc is not the same as Pinot Gris nor Pinot Grigio - it is a further mutation of this grape.

Californian Pinot Grigios tend to be richer in flavor than their Italian counterparts, but still have the mineral taste. Often, they finish with a lemony or citrusy flavor.

GEWÜRZTRAMINER

Gewürztraminer is a very pungent and aromatic wine. Made famous in Alsace, France where the German name was adopted, "gewürz" translates into "spicy". However, it may also mean "perfumed".

Flavors and aromas that can be found in Gewürztraminer may include: rose petal, gardenia, honeysuckle, lychee, peach, mango or perfume.

Gewürztraminer wines are an excellent match for fresh fruit and cheeses and a good compliment to many simple fish and chicken dishes, especially recipes that use hot pepper spices, oriental five spice or even curry.

RIESLING

Considered probably the best white wine grape in the world for its cellar longevity and ability to retain varietal identity, Riesling has been misunderstood in America. Given a bad reputation by other varieties that bear a resemblance in name like Grey Riesling aka Chaucé Gris and Walshriesling aka Italian Riesling, true Riesling is a remarkable wine. Riesling can range from bone dry and crisp to a complex, unctuous nectar made from Botrytis-affected, shriveled berries, individually late-picked.

Flavors and aromas that can be found in Riesling may include floral rose petal, apple, pear, peach, apricot and mineral.

Crisp Riesling goes well with a fish like trout, that has been pan-fried in butter or any seafood in a rich cream sauce.

PINOT GRIS / GRIGIO

BIN			
150	2015	ANCIEN <i>SANGIACOMO VINEYARD, CARNEROS</i>	42
151	2014	BALLETTO <i>RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY</i>	29
152	2015	BARRYMORE <i>MONTEREY COUNTY - PINOT GRIGIO</i>	39
153	2015	SWANSON <i>NAPA VALLEY - PINOT GRIGIO</i>	45

GEWÜRZTRAMINER

BIN			
300	2015	GUNDLACH BUNDSCHU <i>SONOMA COAST</i>	33
301	2015	HUSCH <i>ANDERSON VALLEY, MENDOCINO</i>	27

RIESLING

BIN			
350	2014	GALERIE <i>"TERRACEA" SPRING MOUNTAIN</i>	51
351	2015	KENDALL-JACKSON <i>VINTNER'S RESERVE, CALIFORNIA</i>	27
352	2015	TREFETHEN <i>OAK KNOLL DISTRICT, NAPA VALLEY</i>	39

INTRIGUING WHITES / ROSÉ

BIN			
400	2013	FREEMARK ABBEY <i>NAPA VALLEY - VIOGNIER</i>	42
401	MV	KENDRICK <i>MARIN COUNTY - VIOGNIER</i>	47
402	2015	LA MAREA <i>KRISTY VINEYARD, MONTEREY COUNTY - ALBARIÑO</i>	48
403	2014	MASSICAN <i>"ANNIA" NAPA VALLEY - WHITE BLEND</i>	60
404	2014	PINE RIDGE <i>CLARKSBURG - CHENIN BLANC & VIOGNIER</i>	33
405	2016	SAINTSBURY <i>"VIN GRIS OF PINOT NOIR" CARNEROS" - ROSÉ</i>	38
406	2015	SKYLARK <i>ORSI VINEYARD, MENDOCINO COUNTY - PINOT BLANC</i>	36
407	2015	TABLAS CREEK <i>ADELAIDA DISTRICT, PASO ROBLES - VERMENTINO</i>	48
408	2015	THREE CLICKS <i>BRANHAM VNYD., ROCKPILE, SONOMA - GRENACHE BLANC</i>	60

PINOT NOIR

For a grape that is so hard to cultivate and vinify, it is a wonder that Pinot Noir is planted worldwide. From Algeria to Brazil to Switzerland, almost every country produces and grows Pinot Noir. Pinot Noir owes its favorable reputation in large part to the wines of Burgundy.

Another factor that plays well for Pinot Noir is that it is a varietal that seems to reflect a more pronounced *Gout de Terroir*, or flavor of the soil, than any other black grape varietal. One can taste the soil and surroundings in which the grapes were grown.

Despite its delicacy, Pinot Noir can be full-bodied and rich, but not heavy, high in alcohol, yet neither acidic nor tannic, with substantial flavor.

Typical flavors one can find in Pinot Noir are (but not limited to): cherry, strawberry, raspberry, ripe tomato, violet, rose petal, mushroom, earth, vanilla, and cedar.

Some of the best growing regions in California for Pinot Noir are: Santa Maria Valley, Santa Barbara, Russian River Valley, Carneros, Anderson Valley, the Pinnacle and Santa Lucia Highlands in Monterey County.

PINOT NOIR

BIN			
500	2014	BALLETTO <i>RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY</i>	44
501	2013	CARNEROS HILLS WINERY <i>CARNEROS</i>	54
502	2012	CHAMP DE RÊVES <i>ANDERSON VALLEY</i>	60
503	2011	COBB <i>RICE-SPIVAK VINEYARD, SONOMA COAST</i>	160
504	2013	COPAIN <i>WENDLING VINEYARD, ANDERSON VALLEY</i>	120
505	2014	FLOR DE CAMPO <i>BY SANFORD, CENTRAL COAST</i>	39
506	2014	HANZELL <i>"SEBELLA" SONOMA COAST</i>	96
507	2009	HARMONIQUE <i>"DELICACÉ", ANDERSON VALLEY</i>	85
508	2009	HARMONIQUE <i>"ELEGANCÉ", ANDERSON VALLEY</i>	88
509	2009	HARMONIQUE <i>"THE NOBLE ONE", ANDERSON VALLEY</i>	85
510	2014	HOOK & LADDER <i>RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY, SONOMA COUNTY</i>	45
511	2014	LACREMA <i>SONOMA COAST</i>	45
512	2014	MEIOMI <i>CALIFORNIA</i>	38
513	2013	ROBERT MONDAVI <i>CARNEROS</i>	48
514	2014	SCHUG <i>CARNEROS</i>	47
515	2013	SIDURI <i>CARGASACCHI VINEYARD, SANTA RITA HILLS</i>	120
516	2013	TWOMEY <i>ANDERSON VALLEY</i>	130
517	2014	WINDVANE <i>BY GLORIA FERRER, CARNEROS</i>	188
518	2013	ZD WINERY <i>CARNEROS</i>	58
519	2013	ZOTOVICH <i>"SR/246" SANTA RITA HILLS</i>	42

MERLOT

Merlot can be credited for bringing California and the rest of America into its current wine renaissance. It had helped move people from non-descript, "jug" wine to single-varietal wines.

Merlot has been one of the most popular red wine varietals in the past two decades. Gaining huge popularity in the latter half of the 1980's until today, Merlot's appeal relies on its soft, velvety texture. Usually "easier" drinking than other red wine varietals, Merlot has slightly lower natural acidity than Cabernet Sauvignon and generally less astringency, therefore a more lush mouth-feel.

Flavors and aromas that one may find in Merlot may include, but not limited to: currant, black cherry, plum, violet, rose, caramel, bell pepper, and cigar box.

SYRAH

Not since Merlot hit the markets in the late 80's has a wine become so popular so fast. Syrah had become an obscure varietal in California since its introduction in 1971. By 1984, there were less than 100 acres of Syrah planted in California. Today, there is an estimated 12,700 vineyard acres planted and the acreage continues to expand.

Its recent success can be attributed to Australian Shiraz. Same wine, only "Down Under" they give it a different name.

However, Syrah is not a newcomer to the wine industry. Its past can be traced back to France. It is the only grape used to make the famous Rhône wines of the Côte Rotie and Hermitage, but it also forms the background of most Rhône blends, including Chateauneuf du Pape.

Syrah forms intense wines, with deep violet, nearly black color, texture and richness, with aromas that tend to be more spicy than fruity. Simply put, it's seductive.

Typical flavors and aromas that can be found in Syrah include, but are not limited to: black currant, blackberry, black pepper, licorice, clove, cedar, vanilla, smoke and toast.

Syrah lends itself best when served with broiled meats and barbeque. Try it with flame broiled steak.

MERLOT

BIN			
550	2013	CHARLES KRUG <i>NAPA VALLEY</i>	41
551	2012	DUCKHORN <i>NAPA VALLEY</i>	108
552	2012	GUNDLACH BUNDSCHU <i>SONOMA VALLEY</i>	52
553	2013	J. LOHR " <i>LOS OSOS</i> " <i>PASO ROBLES</i>	39
554	2014	MARKHAM <i>NAPA VALLEY</i>	40
555	2010	NEYERS <i>NEYER'S RANCH, NAPA VALLEY</i>	72
556	2012	RAYMOND <i>RESERVE, NAPA VALLEY</i>	47
557	2014	STAGS' LEAP WINERY <i>NAPA VALLEY</i>	51

SYRAH / PETITE SIRAH

BIN			
600	2014	COPAIN " <i>TOUS ENSEMBLE</i> " <i>MENDOCINO COUNTY - SYRAH</i>	38
601	2012	FOPPIANO <i>RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY - PETITE SIRAH</i>	45
602	2014	MICHAEL DAVID " <i>PETITE PETIT</i> " <i>LODI - PETITE SIRAH</i>	35
603	2013	OPOLO VINEYARDS <i>PASO ROBLES - PETITE SIRAH</i>	41
604	2012	QUPE <i>CENTRAL COAST</i>	36

ZINFANDEL

Californians can no longer claim Zinfandel as their own. Until recently, Zinfandel was thought to originate in California or Croatia. That was before DNA tests became available. DNA tests have proven that Zinfandel is a clone from Croatia.

Zinfandel, as a red wine can be made light and fruity, much like French Beaujolais, or lively, complex and age worthy, like Cabernet Sauvignon. It can also be made into big, ripe, high alcohol style wines that resemble Port.

Zinfandel is a highly vigorous vine. It is not affected by many of the common ailments that threaten other grape varieties, therefore, some vines may grow for 75 to 100 years. Zinfandel aficionados believe these "old vines" produce the best wines because the older vineyards set smaller crop and the grapes tend to ripen more evenly.

Flavors and aromas that can typically be found in Zinfandel are: raspberry, blackberry, boysenberry, cranberry, black cherry, briar, licorice, cinnamon, candied fruits, jam, smoke and cedar.

Zinfandel is served best with outdoor grilled meats, lamb in particular. Also, meats that have been stewed with or stuffed with fruit is a perfect pairing with Zinfandel.

RHÔNE BLENDS

You might not know it, but California has always been big on Rhône Varietals. With wines like Pinot Noir that has been a long-time favorite and Syrah, a new and emerging varietal, many grape growers have begun to focus on the lesser known grape varieties found in Rhône. In Southern California, a group of wine makers known as the "Rhône Rangers" have been at the forefront of educating us on the importance of these wonderful varieties that this region of France has to offer.

ZINFANDEL

BIN			
650	2014	FROG'S LEAP <i>NAPA VALLEY</i>	48
651	2012	HARTFORD <i>FANUCCHI-WOOD ROAD VINEYARD, RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY</i>	114
652	2012	HEITZ WINE CELLARS <i>INK GRADE VINEYARD, NAPA VALLEY</i>	55
653	2012	HOOK & LADDER <i>RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY</i>	47
654	2013	MURPHY-GOODE <i>"LIAR'S DICE" SONOMA COUNTY</i>	33
655	2013	PEACHY CANYON <i>"WESTSIDE" PASO ROBLES</i>	45
656	2013	POUND FOR POUND <i>PASO ROBLES</i>	60
657	2013	RAVENSWOOD <i>TELDESCHI VINEYARD, DRY CREEK VALLEY</i>	65
658	2013	ROCKFISH <i>ROCKPILE, SONOMA COUNTY</i>	54
659	2010	YORBA <i>SHAKE RIDGE VINEYARD. AMADOR COUNTY</i>	60

INTRIGUING REDS & RHÔNE BLENDS

BIN			
700	2014	BEDROCK <i>"THE BEDROCK HERITAGE SONOMA VALLEY</i> ZINFANDEL, CARIGNANE, PLUS 20 OTHER VARIETALS	95
701	2013	ILARIA <i>NAPA VALLEY</i> MALBEC	50
702	2013	KEENAN <i>NAPA VALLEY</i> CABERNET FRANC	137
703	2014	KENDRICK <i>REWARD RANCH, SHENANDOAH VALLEY</i> SANGIOVESE	42
704	2011	LACUNA <i>CALIFORNIA</i> SYRAH VIOGNIER CARIGNANE	50
705	2014	PAYDIRT <i>'RECKLESS ABANDON" PASO ROBLES</i> MOURVÈDRE TANNAT ZINFANDEL	60
706	MV	SEAN THACKERY <i>"PLEIADES" XXIV MULTI VINTAGE & VARIETAL</i>	48
707	2011	STARRY NIGHT <i>LA SIERRA VINEYARD, LAKE COUNTY</i> CABERNET FRANC	39

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

What can one say except for, "In California, Cabernet is King." Rich and opulent, lush and seductive all at the same time. Very few wines can garner the attention and praise that California Cabernet Sauvignons receive. The aging potential of most Cabernets make them a favorite of many collectors.

California Cabernet Sauvignon has seen much success over the past twenty-five years. Their notoriety exploded after the Paris tasting of 1976 where a California Cabernet Sauvignon was awarded best red wine. California winemakers finally achieved the recognition they deserved.

Some flavors and aromas that are typically associated with Cabernet Sauvignon are black currant, blackberry, black cherry, bell pepper, green peppercorn, vanilla, mushroom and cedar.

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

BIN			
800	2012	ANAKOTA <i>HELENA DAKOTA VINEYARD, KNIGHTS VALLEY</i>	195
801	2014	B SIDE <i>NAPA VALLEY</i>	45
802	2014	CHATEAU ST. JEAN <i>CALIFORNIA</i>	33
803	2012	CORISON <i>NAPA VALLEY</i>	180
804	2014	DANIEL COHN <i>"BELLACOSA" NORTH COAST</i>	45
805	2012	DAVIS ESTATES <i>NAPA VALLEY</i>	80
806	2012	ELYSE <i>HOLBROOK MITCHELL VINEYARD, YOUNTVILLE, NAPA VALLEY</i>	105
807	2012	FAR NIENTE <i>OAKVILLE, NAPA VALLEY</i>	240
808	2013	FLORA SPRINGS <i>NAPA VALLEY</i>	77
809	2014	FROG'S LEAP <i>NAPA VALLEY</i>	110
810	2012	GROTH <i>RESERVE, OAKVILLE, NAPA VALLEY</i>	255
811	2012	JORDAN <i>ALEXANDER VALLEY</i>	117
812	2013	JOULLIAN <i>CARMEL VALLEY</i>	48
813	2013	LOUIS MARTINI <i>NAPA VALLEY</i>	60
814	2012	ROBERT MONDAVI <i>RESERVE, TO KALON VINEYARD, OAKVILLE, NAPA VALL</i>	290
815	2011	SILVER OAK <i>NAPA VALLEY</i>	220
816	2014	TEETER-TOTTER <i>NAPA VALLEY</i>	110
817	2006	VIDAL VINEYARDS <i>NAPA VALLEY</i>	81
818	2012	VILUKO VINEYARDS <i>"SPLIT ROCK" MAYACAMAS MTS. SONOMA COUNTY</i>	64
819	2012	VINE HILL RANCH <i>NAPA VALLEY</i>	370

MERITAGE

In 1988, a group of American vintners formed The Meritage Association to identify hand-crafted wines blended from the traditional "noble" Bordeaux varietals.

Most American wines are labeled after the grape variety that comprises at least 75% of that wine. A label with "Cabernet Sauvignon" indicates that the wine is comprised of 75% or more of the grape variety Cabernet Sauvignon.

Many winemakers, however, believed the varietal requirement did not necessarily result in the highest quality wine from their vineyards. "Meritage" was coined to identify wines that represent the highest form of the winemaker's art, blending, and distinguish these wines from the more generic moniker "red table wine."

"Meritage," pronounced like "heritage," was selected from more than 6,000 entries in an international contest to name the new wine category. Meritage is an invented word that combines "merit" and "heritage"

While many wineries prefer to use proprietary names in addition to, or rather than, Meritage, to obtain a license and use the term Meritage a wine must meet the following criteria:

- A red Meritage is made from a blend of two or more of the following varieties: Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Malbec, Petit Verdot, St. Macaire, Gros Verdot, and Carmenere. No single variety may make up more than 90 percent of the blend.
- A white Meritage is made from a blend of two or more of the following varieties: Sauvignon Blanc, Semillon, and Sauvignon Vert. No single variety may make up more than 90 percent of the blend.

MERITAGE AND PROPRIETARY BLENDS

BIN			
900	2012	ATALON "PAULINE'S CUVÉE" NAPA VALLEY 63% MERLOT, 31% CAB FRANC, 6% CAB SAUVIGNON	53
901	2013	BRIDLEWOOD BLEND 175, CENTRAL COAST SYRAH, CABERNET SAUVIGNON, ZINFANDEL	33
902	2012	CHÂTEAU NAPA NAPA VALLEY PROPRIETARY RED BLEND	45
903	2012	DRY CREEK VINEYARDS "THE MARINER" DRY CREEK VALLEY 41% CAB SAUVIGNON, 41% MERLOT, 7% MALBEC, 6% CAB FRANC, 5% PETITE VERDOT	60
904	2013	FRANCISCAN "MAGNIFICAT" NAPA VALLEY 73% CAB SAUVIGNON, 24% MERLOT, 2% MALBEC, 1% CAB FRANC	54
905	2010	JOSEPH PHELPS "INSIGNIA" NAPA VALLEY 84% CAB SAUVIGNON, 10% PETIT VERDOT, 4% MERLOT, 2% MALBEC	375
906	2011	JOSEPH PHELPS "INSIGNIA" NAPA VALLEY 82% CAB SAUVIGNON, 11% PETIT VERDOT, 4% MALBEC, 2% MERLOT AND 1% CAB FRANC	425
907	2012	MAD HATTER BY DANCING HARES VINEYARD, NAPA VALLEY 59% CAB SAUVIGNON, 23% CAB FRANC, 11% MERLOT, 7% PETIT VERDOT	75
908	MV	OVERTURE BY OPUS ONE NAPA VALLEY CABERNET SAUVIGNON, MERLOT, CABERNET FRANC, PETIT VERDOT AND MALBEC	236
909	2013	PICO & VINE NAPA COUNTY 90% CABERNET SAUVIGNON, 7% PETIT VERDOT, AND 3% MERLOT	36
910	2014	REALM CELLARS "THE BARD" 90% CABERNET SAUVIGNON, 7% PETIT VERDOT, AND 3% MERLOT	270

OPUS ONE

In the candy business, one would say two great tastes, taste great together. Same holds true in the wine industry. However in this case, two great wineries make great wine together...

In 1970, Robert Mondavi met, for the first time, with Baron Philippe de Rothschild in Hawaii. During that initial meeting, Baron Philippe proposes a joint venture.

Eight years later, Baron Philippe invites Robert Mondavi to Bordeaux and within an hour the two work out a framework for their plan. The next year, Mouton Rothschild winemaker Lucien Sionneau and Timothy Mondavi make the partnership's first vintage at the Robert Mondavi Winery.

The partners officially announce their joint venture in 1980.

The wine was an instant success. A single case of the joint venture wine sells for \$24,000 at the inaugural Napa Valley Wine Auction, the highest paid for a California wine.

In 1983, the yet to be named winery purchased a 50-acre ranch, The River Parcel. The property is in Oakville, East of Highway 29. That year, the partners agree to choose a name of Latin origin for the joint venture, allowing for easy recognition in both English and French. Baron Philippe announces his choice. OPUS, a musical analogy denoting the first masterwork of a composer. Two days later, he proposes an addition: OPUS ONE.

The 1979 and 1980 vintage were both unveiled as Opus One's first release in 1984. During that same year, the partners select Scott Johnson, of Johnson, Fain and Pereira as design architect for the Opus One Winery.

Opus One becomes America's first ultra-premium wine, establishing a category of wine priced by the bottle at \$50 and more. Their sales average around 11,000 cases per year between 1985 to 1987.

In January of 1988, Baron Philippe de Rothschild dies in France at the age of 86. His widow, Baroness Philippine de Rothschild takes over the family wine business.

By 1991, construction of the Opus One winery is completed. Baroness Philippine de Rothschild and the Robert Mondavi family gather to celebrate their first harvest at Opus One.

OPUS ONE

BIN			
920	1998	OPUS ONE <i>NAPA VALLEY</i> 91% CAB SAUVIGNON, 7% CAB FRANC, 1% MERLOT, 1% MALBEC AND PETIT VERDOT Intense aromas of blackberries, vanilla, and roasted espresso and caramel. Seamless texture and a long, persistent finish.	670
921	2001	OPUS ONE <i>NAPA VALLEY</i> 87% CAB SAUVIGNON, 6% MERLOT, 2% CAB FRANC, 3% MALBEC, 2% PETIT VERDOT Aromas of black currant, black cherry liqueur, plum and fresh vanilla, with hints of graham cracker and black peppercorn. Intense flavors of ripe black cherry, cassis, and dark chocolate, finishing with lingering black fruit and savory spice.	610
922	2003	OPUS ONE <i>NAPA VALLEY</i> 91% CAB SAUVIGNON, 3% CAB FRANC, 3% PETIT VERDOT, 2% MERLOT, 1% MALBEC Aromas of blackberry, plum, hazelnut, graphite, olive oil, cocoa and dried cherries. Vibrant blackberry and black cherry fruit of Oakville. Nuances of dark chocolate, black licorice and herbs linger on the finish.	525
923	2004	OPUS ONE <i>NAPA VALLEY</i> 86% CAB SAUVIGNON, 7% MERLOT, 4% PETIT VERDOT, 2% CAB FRANC, 1% MALBEC Aromas of violets, cedar, black tea leaves, black pepper and brioche. On the palate, elements of cassis, toffee and cocoa round out the rich flavors of intense fruit.	525
924	2006	OPUS ONE <i>NAPA VALLEY</i> 77% CAB SAUVIGNON, 12% MERLOT, 5% CAB FRANC, 3% PETIT VERDOT, 3% MALBEC Aromas of fresh cut roses, licorice, dark chocolate, blackberry pie, smoked bacon and saffras. Silky and dense on the palate. Flavors of cassis, espresso and zesty black cherry with a persistently smooth finish.	475
925	2008	OPUS ONE <i>NAPA VALLEY</i> 86% CAB SAUVIGNON, 8% PETIT VERDOT, 4% MERLOT, 1% CAB FRANC, 1% MALBEC Aromas of rose petals, cassis and black cherry combine with notes of marzipan and sandalwood. Smooth, round tannins with a juicy and elegant mouthfeel. Long finish, with traces of clove and dark chocolate.	450
926	2009	OPUS ONE <i>NAPA VALLEY</i> 81% CAB SAUVIGNON, 9% CAB FRANC, 6% PETIT VERDOT, 3% MERLOT, 1% MALBEC Aromas of black olive and minerals underlie more traditional notes of dark chocolate, cola and espresso. Showing flavors of ripe blueberry, cassis and licorice. Smooth finish and a slight tannins at the close.	450

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Lucien Sionneau retires in 1985. Following his retirement, Patrick Leon joins Chateau Mouton – Rothschild as winemaker. Timothy Mondavi and Patrick Leon become the new Opus One co-winemaking team.

Opus One becomes America's first ultra-premium wine, establishing a category of wine priced by the bottle at \$50 and more. Their sales average around 11,000 cases per year between 1985 to 1987.

In January of 1988, Baron Philippe de Rothschild dies in France at the age of 86. His widow, Baroness Philippine de Rothschild takes over the family wine business.

OPUS ONE

BIN			
927	2010	OPUS ONE <i>NAPA VALLEY</i> 84% CAB SAUVIGNON, 5.5% CAB FRANC, 5.5% MERLOT, 4% PETIT VERDOT, 1% MALBEC Aromas of black olive and minerals underlie more traditional notes of dark chocolate, cola and espresso. Showing flavors of ripe blueberry, cassis and licorice. Smooth finish and a slight tannins at the close.	450
928	2011	OPUS ONE <i>NAPA VALLEY</i> 71% CAB SAUVIGNON, 11% MERLOT, 9% PETIT VERDOT, 8% CAB FRANC, 1% MALBEC Fresh aromas of bright red fruits, bay leaf and cassis give way to subtler notes of black tea and white pepper. Round tannins and creamy texture envelop the familiar flavors of fresh cherry and dark chocolate.	460
929	2012	OPUS ONE <i>NAPA VALLEY</i> 79% CAB SAUVIGNON, 7% CAB FRANC, 6% PETIT VERDOT, 6% MERLOT, 2% MALBEC Dark fruit aromas accentuated by subtler notes of forest-floor and graphite. Classic flavors of cassis, blackberry and black cherry. This wine offers lively acidity and a sturdy structure with a long lingering finish.	490

The Philosophy of Wine

An Anonymous Homage to Wine

A philosophy professor stood before his class with some items in front of him. When the class began, without a word, he picked up a very large jar and proceeded to fill it with rocks, each about two inches in diameter. He then asked the class if the jar was full. They all agreed that it was.

So the professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles, of course, rolled into the open areas between the rocks.

He then asked the class again if the jar was full. They all agreed it was.

The professor picked up a bag of sand and poured it into the jar. The sand filled in between the pebbles.

He then asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with an unanimous ...yes.

The professor then produced a bottle of red wine from under the tables and proceeded to pour the entire contents into the jar effectively filling the empty spaces between the sand.

"Now," said the professor, "I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The rocks being the important things – your family, your health, and your children – things that if everything else were lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house, your car. The sand is everything else ...the small stuff.

If you put the sand in the jar first there would be no room for the pebbles or the rocks. The same goes for your life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you.

Take care of the rocks first, the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand."

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the wine represented.