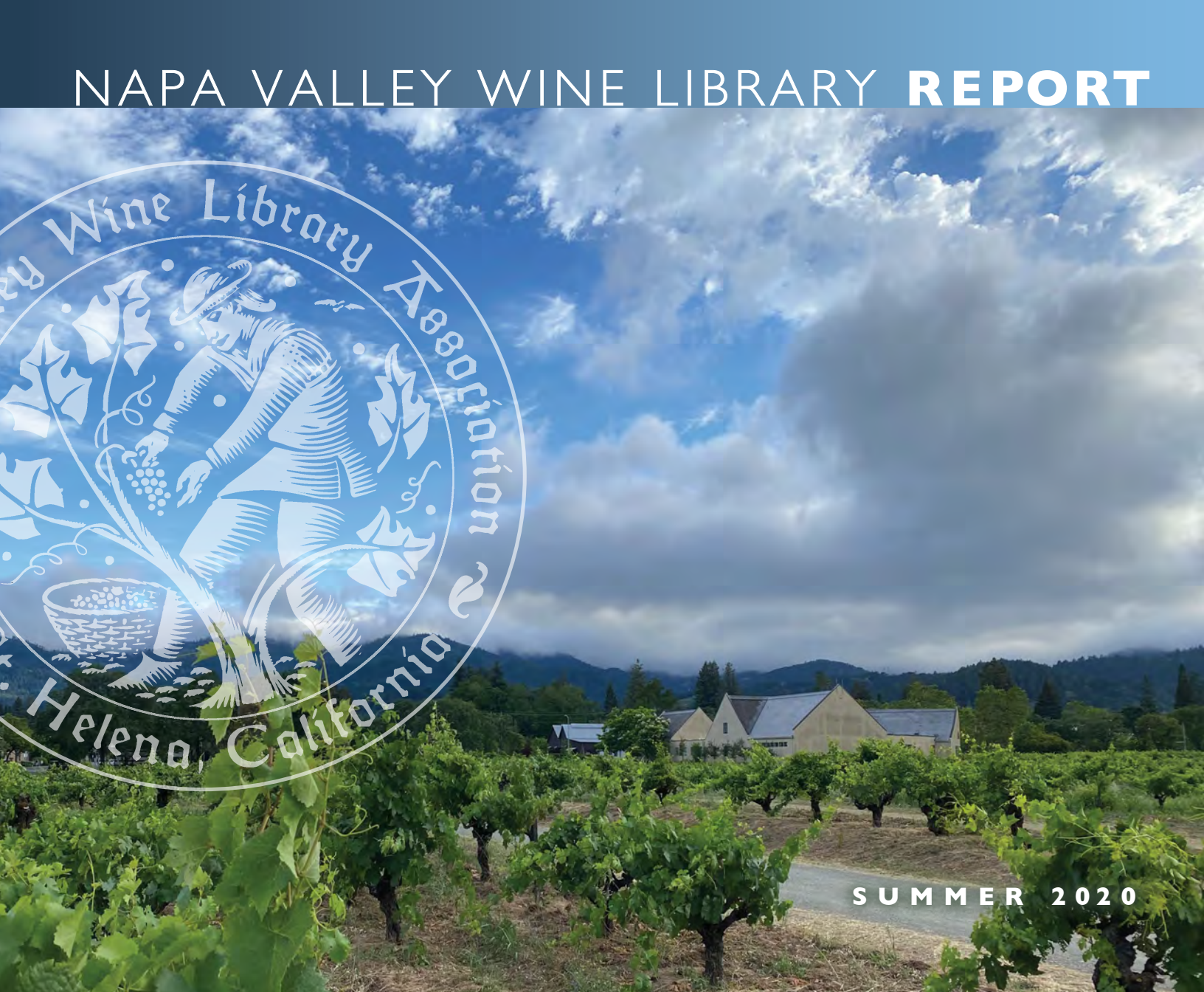


# NAPA VALLEY WINE LIBRARY **REPORT**



SUMMER 2020

# 2020-2021 Calendar of Events

2020

Thursday, January 30 at 7:00 pm

A Fellowship Report after her First of Two Years from  
Jullianne Ballou, *Warren Winiarski Wine Writer Collection Fellow*,  
UC Davis Library  
at George and Elsie Wood Public Library, Saint Helena

Thursday, March 5 at 6:00 pm

Books on Wine Evening with Heather Hebert, author of  
*The New Architecture of Wine: 25 Spectacular Wineries in California*  
at Trinchero Napa Valley

2021

Saturday, May 15 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

30th Annual Wine Seminar  
“Napa Valley’s Old Vine Vineyards and the Wines They Give Us.”  
at Stags’ Leap Winery, Napa

Sunday, August 8 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

58th Annual Grand Tasting  
“Exploring the Napa Valley—Varieties that Define and Refine”  
— A Vintners’ Choice Tasting  
in the Grove at Silverado Resort & Spa, Napa

“The purpose of the Napa Valley Wine Library is to collect  
and share the history and stories of viticulture, enology and  
wine lore, particularly as they pertain to Napa Valley.”



COVER PHOTO: LOOKING WEST ACROSS LIBRARY VINEYARD  
LEASED BY THE CITY TO TURLEY WINE CELLARS, MORE THAN A BAKER'S DOZEN  
OF WINE GRAPE VARIETIES GROW HERE AS THEY HAVE FOR 100 YEARS.  
PHOTOGRAPHY: BRIAN NASH

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## Napa Valley Wine Library REPORT

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## President's Letter

Dear Napa Valley Wine Library Friends,

Our Board Members, independent contractors, additional loyal and versed volunteers are getting back to work on behalf of NVLWA as we all absorb the changes in our day-to-day responsibilities and actions.

Our Preservation Initiative work continues with the production of this issue of the REPORT (since nearly all of it can be done via the Internet), and the ongoing digitization of the research tapes in the William Heintz Collection – another non-contact project.

In the “silver lining” department, we have a great opportunity to stop and review all our practices. An organization as old as this one – 57 years – is bound to be entrenched in its conduct and sense of purpose. We need to take full advantage of this era of digital technology and the profound hiatus conferred by SARS-CoV-2 to review membership, events, and our administrative organization. How do we best reach you? What do you most want to know? What do we provide best? We think the Books on Wine evenings described in this issue should help us in finding answers.

Our two signature events, the Annual Wine Seminar and Annual Tasting have been postponed until 2021. The Seminar will be on Saturday, May 15, 2021 and the Tasting on Sunday August 8, 2021. Stags' Leap Winery in Napa will host the Seminar and the Grove at Silverado Resort & Spa in Napa is once again the venue for our Tasting.

A complete break from the social energizing of the Valley's multiple causes can give all of us a chance to think, recharge, sharpen our definitions, and come back stronger. Thank you for your ongoing support and participation.

We always look forward to hearing from you,

Carolyn Martini  
*President*



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY E & J GALLO WINERY

# Books on Wine Evening

Jullianne Ballou, *Warren Winiarski Wine Writer Collection Fellow, UC Davis Library*

*George and Elsie Wood Public Library, Saint Helena*

*Thursday, January 30, 2020*

In July 2018, reading of the establishment of a *Warren Winiarski Wine Writer Collection Fellowship* at UC Davis Library, and then later being asked to suggest candidates for the position, we knew to keep our eye on who would be appointed. In November 2018, Axel Borg of UC Davis Library brought Jullianne Ballou to meet the Napa Valley Wine Library Collection, Carolyn Martini, and your editor. Jullianne was to start her fellowship January 1, 2019; we asked if she might come in May to talk about her fellowship, the *Wine Writers Collection* at UC Davis Library and the NVWL Collection. Jullianne suggested we wait a year. So we did.

And now, in January 2020, words and wine, archives and live action came together in an absolutely extraordinary fashion among librarians, archivists, winemakers, and wine writers. Here, in the Wine Library Wing of the Saint Helena Public Library, surrounded by books, we learned just how lively words on wine can be.

In her introduction of Jullianne, Carolyn led off with the question she said was being asked among all libraries today: one of relevancy—“Where do we fit?” She said there was obviously no better place for the NVWL Collection to be than right here in Napa Valley. And, as Jullianne put it, the signature statement of the *Warren Winiarski Wine Writer Collection Fellowship* is, “Better Words Make Better Wine.”

Jullianne was formerly Project Librarian at the Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin, and would report in on both *the Wine Writers Collection* and the *Warren Winiarski Wine Writer Collection Fellowship* at UC Davis Library, home of “the finest grape and wine library in the world,” according to the offices of our California State Archives.

In thanking Carolyn, Jullianne commented on NVWLA’s storied history. She wished she could have been ‘a fly-on-the-wall’ back in the days of its founders, Paco Gould (whose papers are at the Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin), letterpress printer Jim Beard, writer MFK Fisher, and the wine writing repository that grew, and is the center of educational resources in the Napa Valley for both history and winemaking skills.

History has a way of repeating itself, Julianne observed, so now, echoing NVWLA, we have the Wine Writer Collection and Warren Winiarski Wine Writer Collection Fellowship at UC Davis Shields Library, and an astonishing effort underway to build an understanding between ‘the public and the practitioners.’

*The Wine Writer Collection* is a comprehensive gathering of wine writers’ works—their drafts, research and correspondence in the archives as well as their published works in the Shields’ circulating collection. One of the roles of the Fellow is to actively promote the growth of these wine writer collections. The other is to provide access to the collections for research, teaching and general exploration. Acquisitions, events, exhibitions, and enhancement of its digital collections are all in the Fellow’s purview to share physical resources and provide links to better understand and appreciate the magnitude of wine and its nearly inseparable companion, food.

Jullianne characterized Warren’s gift as a ‘brave step’ along with the wine writers’ donations of their papers, including those from: Leon Adams, Roy Brady, Hugh Johnson, Jancis Robinson, Charles L. Sullivan, Ruth Teiser, and our own Advisory Board Member, Bob Thompson.

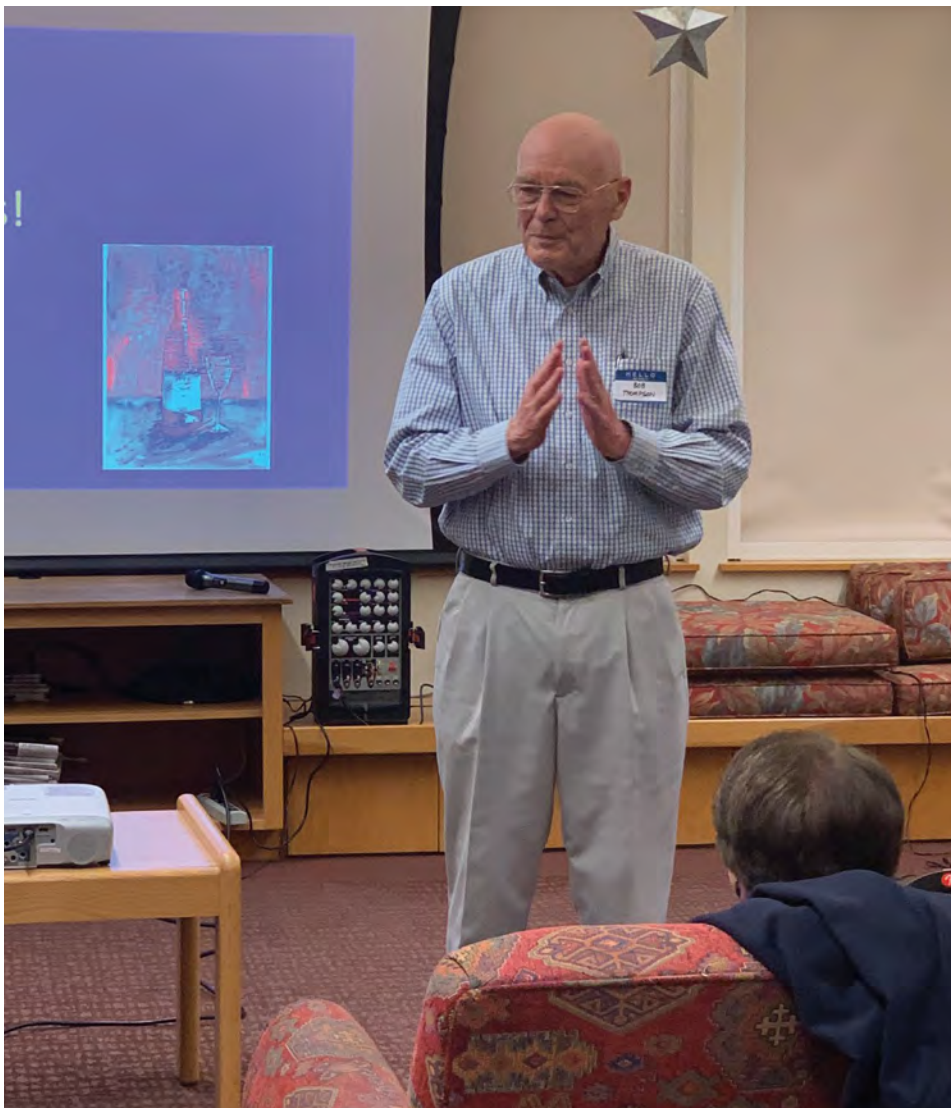
In the 1970's and 1980's, wine writers wrote in close association with California winemakers but, Jullianne observed, no library had yet to collect the personal papers of wine writers with this level of focus and the Winiarski Family Foundation's gift in 2018-2021 comes during substantial change in the Napa Valley. Winemakers have been selling their wineries, passing away. James Conway's third and final book in his trilogy published in 2018 is *Napa At Last Light: America's Eden in an Age of Calamity*.

Following the 2019 Wine Writers Symposium, its board elected for the symposium to go on hiatus in 2020 in order to discuss its future after 15 years of "annual gatherings." There are so many more writers now Jullianne pointed out—with blogs and Tweets, and the growing pressure of social media. Numbers of instances of cutting, copying and pasting are constantly multiplying. In 2019, Stephen Spurrier took on the role of an ambassador of wine-related publications, old and new, with the launch of his English publishing company, *Academie du Vin Library*, espousing stories that bring wine to life and are worth talking about. Warren has done something similar with the announcement of the Fellowship in 2018, to which Jullianne applied, and "...here we find ourselves."

Jullianne studied in Walla Walla for her BA in American Literature at the same time her sister Adrienne worked harvest there and then went on to UC Davis for her BS in viticulture and enology. Jullianne's own particular interest is the literature of the American South and its West—



*Jullianne Ballou and Warren Winiarski, kindness of Calboun & Company Communications*



*Wine Writer and Advisory Board Member, Bob Thompson. Michael Merriman, photographer*

subjects called “Regional Literature”, a literature of place. But her sister has also stimulated and informed an interest in wine. After Jullianne’s college graduation, she became both an editor at the University of Texas Press in Austin and Oxford American, A Magazine of the South in Little Rock. She came next to the Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin in 2014, where she worked with the archives of authors such as Guy Davenport, Gabriel García Márquez, Arthur Miller, and Dylan Thomas. By this time, her sister had worked harvests in Burgundy and Australia, and was now a winemaker in the Texas Hill Country just outside Austin and sharing wine stories with Jullianne.

After being an editor, Jullianne found she missed working with living writers, but she fully enjoys the work of special libraries, and at UC Davis Library she does get to teach. And, in the words of William Faulkner, in his Requiem for a Nun: “The past is never dead. It’s not even past.” She loves being able to share that connection of physical history, of seeing the notes on an author’s work in manuscript and watching the student wheels begin to turn.

During her career in special libraries, Jullianne researched the histories of the worlds’ best libraries and their benefactors. The Winiarski Family Foundation gift will take the UC Davis Library Wine Writer Collection to the next level, from its being built to making it accessible through digitization. The philosophy of the UC Davis Library is one of openness with priorities

to house the collections as quickly as possible, then develop the teaching with the collections, and allowing for exhibition space.

Somewhat ruefully, Jullianne reminded us that the nature of this collection is different from other library collections as wine's aesthetic properties require consumption. Imagine: archives with wine tastings! Students not yet aware of wine writing but curious about the disciplines of describing viticulture and vinography, the various challenges and styles of that writing opens the students up to new vocabulary, very special experiences, a new academic level of studies for the subject. Jullianne said it is fun to see writing in a new area be ignited, an exciting future open. Events, inter-departmental collaborations, and conferences are all underway. After a program devoted to a research manuscript of Professor Olmo's, there was a tasting of Olmo-clone wines.

The Shields Library Maynard Amerine Room houses the circulating collection, the Archives and Special Collections area is exclusively for research and reference. These resources have been building for 30 years under the tutelage of Axel Borg, Wine and Food Science Bibliographer and Food and Wine Librarian, who came to UC Davis in 1988. Axel says the key to any successful academic collection is the keen interest of a faculty member. In this case it was Professor Maynard Amerine (a founder of the NVWL Collection at Saint Helena Public Library). Axel and Jullianne agree that good instructors know the industry and where it's going.

Every week the Wine Writer Collection hosts a story time with Axel in which he tells the history of certain materials in the collection. For instance, the Harold Olmo Papers include Professor Olmo's research into the early 1900's of what grapes were planted where and now a recent grant will allow their digitization. How to choose what to collect is tricky. One has to have a policy with some criteria and goals. Jullianne says materials are best when the archive feels like a full conversation so you can appreciate the creative process of the writer or the research process of the scientist. The writers' correspondence is a very rich area for research. Although it would be impossible to digitize her handwriting, Jancis Robinson's notes are spectacular for metadata! Charles Sullivan's research into the origins of Zinfandel is in a folder that includes the published article he wrote, letters, and drafts of the article—a full conversation. In 2019 the papers of Dorothy Tchelistcheff, Joann DePuy, John Shafer, and The Wine Institute, among others, were added.

*The Wine Writers Collection* also has an active exhibits program. Earlier this year there was an exhibit of André Tchelistcheff's career from the 1970's to the 1990's and a recent program with Darrell Corti considering wine in the historical sense: How does Napa Valley Cabernet taste? Shields Library is also digitizing wine labels, menus, and wine catalogues. Jullianne then asked for questions from the floor. ■

*Warren takes questions from the floor  
Michael Merriman, photographer*



## Q & A's

*Q: How many clonal vines did Olmo make?*

A, from Axel: Lots and lots. He was a prolific grape breeder—of both table and wine grapes. And his work benefitted UC Davis that owns the patents.

*Q: What is the acquisition process or policy of the university?*

A, from Jullianne: By donation or gift for the Collection

*Q: You lived and worked with your sister [Adrienne] and learned from her involvement with wine. What has it been like without her?*

A, from Jullianne: I love literature. There has been an evolution. The wine community in California is very different from the Hill Country of Texas. California is much more scientific than Texas in its approach. At first I wanted to learn the science, but now I find I'm getting back to it being much more about the enjoyment.

*Q: Do you see a path at the University different from Vin/Vit for someone interested in wine?*

A, from Jullianne: An academic pathway, in a library or as a fellow or a writer? UC Davis's writing program hasn't offered it yet—about wine, and food. And, besides journalism there is marketing, sommeliers, communication. . .

Warren was then invited to speak in conclusion but preferred to call on wine writer Bob Thompson to comment on his own career.

Bob said his wine writing career began with writing about sports for the newspaper. He gave the example of writing up games of the then “eight twin attractions” of the National and American League baseball teams as something requiring “fine distinctions among things not extra important,” but said, “If you care about describing something interesting and fleeting,” then not only sports but wine writing has an appeal. Bob then added that he “likes to sit around and poke in libraries, that libraries are about how to manage information.”

Warren thought Bob was being a little modest. ‘Sports writing, true, had not started any war,’ he observed, ‘but what about writing that is about lifting people out of the humdrum, out of the ordinary and the things they have to do and concentrate on the things they want to do—what is that experience like, being lifted out of the ordinary? And what does it do for you, that part of you that listens?’

In Warren's words, “We lifted ourselves out of Prohibition, where wine was booze and lifted ourselves up to the possibility of what was sublime in wine could be expressed, given evidence. It took wine writing to do so. Wine writing spoke to something we had not elaborated in our wines, lifted our own aspirations to go beyond. With the wine writing vocabulary we have the

power of words to express the beauty that would otherwise be stillborn, to see things we hadn't seen before among many small connections. Conversations are now possible; there is an interrelation function.”

Did you realize that English writers with their long-standing experiences of the wines of Burgundy, Bordeaux and Spain had already developed a vocabulary, while we in the USA had not? Warren said America got an enormous and needed boost from English writers in borrowing their terminology. For instance, he asked us to consider “complete.”

‘What does “complete” mean? Three things are required: beginning, middle and end. You certainly experience some of this if you are human: you are full of needs. If one is complete, one has no needs. You are beyond yourself. That is why wine is different. It has that [completeness] in it (before the alcohol has taken effect), something we human beings never achieve. We have been helped by wine writing to get [the ineffable] said.’

Warren then addressed Professor Olmo: “Not only useful research, but a fantastic theoretician.” Warren had once traveled to Pakistan with Dr Olmo. They were seeking how far east our *Vitis vinifera sylvestris* grapevine, native to the Mediterranean, had actually originated. But, they didn't find its origin in Pakistan.

Much more recent literature suggests our wine grapevine originated almost 2,000 kilometers away, up and over the mountains,



in Kazakhstan. Warren said he had also ‘done a Guggenheim in Mesopotamia’ and has grapevines growing here from some of the grape seeds from that trek.

To conclude this extraordinary evening, Warren drew the slip to win a magnum of Library Cuvée Barney’s Backyard Petite Syrah submitted at the door for Mary Alice Ernish.

*And, to conclude the privilege of writing this report of the event:*

*Excerpted from pages 41-44:  
Wine Spectator California Winemen Oral History Series  
Warren Winiarski  
Creating Classic Wines in the Napa Valley  
Interviews conducted by Ruth Teiser in 1991 and 1993*

*Page 41:* Warren describes the hand irrigation method he used at the Winiarski’s property on Howell Mountain. He watered his vines by digging basins by hand, at the base of each plant.

*Page 42:* Someone tells Warren that Nathan Fay has devised a better method of irrigation, using a plow.

**Warren:**

... I thought I should see that, and I came down to visit with Nathan. Well, it wasn’t quite as it had been described, but it had enough improvements in my own technique of watering so that I wanted

to use it. We got to talking about this thing and that, and then he invited me in to taste some of the wines he had made from Cabernet in his ground, right out in front here. (points to the original Fay vineyard) ...

Nathan was the first to plant Cabernet in this area. He told me once there were only seven hundred acres of Cabernet in the whole state when he planted this land... This was in 1960. ...

According to CDFA (California Department of Food and Agriculture) ... in 1960, 721 acres of Cabernet planted in the whole state! Currently it’s 34,000 acres. But surely, I knew that there were no Cabernet planted south of the Oakville Crossroad. People said, “It’s too cool down here.” Indeed, none of this was planted to varieties except Nathan’s. ...

*Page 43:*

... So, there were very, very few vines around here altogether. Regusci was pasture, prunes; SLV was mainly prunes; this was pasture. Stelzner had a little bit of grapes back here when we moved here in 1970, but in 1960, he wasn’t here. None of the other plantings around here existed then.

Nathan possessed real daring and pioneering spirit to do what he did. It’s lonely, if you think of it. You prepare the ground; you plant the vines; you’re waiting about two years for the time the vines make their first leaf after the graft in the first year. The second year it doesn’t have any fruit, and the third year you might have a bit of fruit, but if your sensible you cut it all off. So now it’s four years and maybe five years since you’ve prepared the ground before you taste any of the relatively mature fruit from relatively adolescent vines.

Maybe it’s six years, and maybe it takes a year or two in the winery before it develops any kind of subtlety. You might say a whole decade passes before the sense of what this land can produce planted to this varietal is at all visible. That’s a third of a man’s adult working life, or maybe a little bit less.

**Ruth Teiser:**

It certainly is a long time for a man who doesn’t have much money to start with.

**Warren:**

No question. This is a highly venturesome, speculative endeavor. Now, people did recommend to Nathan that he plant Cabernet, but I don’t think any of these people were certain of the outcome. I mean, it’s impossible that they could have known what the outcome would be. They were thinking more in terms, I believe, of what they would like to have happen or, less charitably, of what variety was increasing in popularity, rather than a sure-thing result. The important thing is that no matter how well or ill-informed one’s recommendations are, they do not change the character and the magnitude of the risk and the quality of daring that was involved in this unknown area or in an untried variety.

**Ruth Teiser:**

That was your introduction, then, to that area of the Napa Valley?

**Warren:**

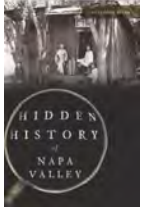
It was. That’s exactly right. ■

## Books on Wine Evening

*Alexandria Brown, Hidden History of Napa Valley*

*Glendale Ranch, Saint Helena*

*Thursday, November 14, 2019*



On a damp November evening the lights of the Glendale Ranch farmhouse welcomed us to a most informative as well as delicious evening of Napa Valley history and repast. The groaning table of small bites composed of gorgeous seasonal fare, fresh and savory, was catered by Allie Phelps of Alexandra Phelps Events, wines were from many member donors, audio-visual support was capably provided by Dom Heil, and Alex Brown was the evening's inspirational author.

Her book had piqued our interest because we hadn't realized that vineyard development and maintenance and our annual wine grape harvest had relied first on our Native American population, then waves of Chinese Immigrants, followed, of course, by those in the Bracero Program. We thought Alex and her book would make for an informative evening.

Alex came to Napa with her mother when she was 18 months old. Her mother worked as a laboratory technician for Queen of the Valley Hospital and Alex napped in conference rooms of medical laboratories on Beard Road ("the Doctors' Block") when she was little. Little wonder rats became her first and favorite pets ("easy to train, affectionate and fine when leashed"). She went to



*Author Alexandria Brown. Michael Merriman, photographer*



*Above Left: Author Alex with Jay Greene  
Above Right: Jerusha Frost, Board Member and host Lindsey Wiseman and Jordan Bentley  
Below: Seasonal Fare from Alexandra Phelps Events. Michael Merriman, photographer*

school in Napa and then back and forth to college and graduate school, earning advanced degrees in both Library and Information Science and United States History. Today Alex is the Young Adult Literature Librarian at Windsor Public Library. She said she is always reading. Both she and her mother think it was prescient to have named her “Alexandria”—after Egypt’s Great Library of Alexandria, naturally.

Rather than an overview and excerpts from her book, Alex gave a vivid account of the kinds

of challenges she faced during 12 months of research (and six of writing) for her book. She shared examples of various records—with their impossible handwriting, transliterations, recondite abbreviations, and mistaken identities: Portuguese recorded as Afro-American, emigrating Canadians and Jamaicans as Afro-American, M instead of F for gender. We saw images of US Census Records from a massive compilation from 1850 to 1940, old newspaper articles on microfilm, voter registers, and grant and assessor’s deeds. Additionally, Alex gathered oral histories and countless other





*Left: Host Lindsey Wiseman and various guests  
Right: Chef Allie Phelps with her assistant and your editor  
Michael Merriman, photographer*



documentary sources for her report on a select number of marginalized populations she had wished to cover. Her choice of the time span for *Hidden History of Napa Valley*—ancient to 1973—was quite deliberate. As an historian, Alex didn't want her narrative overwhelmed by contemporary social-cultural discussion; she wished her coverage to be encompassing, but not super-current. Her publisher had also imposed specific word count limitations.

The publisher, The History Press, is a division of Arcadia Publishing and specializes in local and regional history and culture in the United States. "Hidden History" is one of its series, and Alex's book is among over 200 titles that chronicle extraordinary chapters in local American life.

Before taking the new job in Windsor, Alex had been archivist for the Napa County Historical Society in Napa, where she had done the research for her thesis, "There are no black people in Napa: A history of African Americans in Napa County" for her MA in United States History. There were no mentions of African Americans in Napa County in any easily accessed, popular source, so Alex sought out a rich array of primary source documents. That research inspired her current book that includes the marginalized populations of "...our subjugated Indigenous people, enslaved African Americans, exploited Chinese and Mexican laborers as a result of the agricultural traditions established by Californio ranchers and European immigrants, and the undervalued and emotional labor provided by women."

One still finds traces in the Valley of the dialect of Yukian spoken by the South Patwin Indigenous people who first lived here. Their tribelet villages of Mishewal, Mutistul and Meyakama included Kaimus (Caymus), Napato (Napa), Suskol (Soscol), and Tulukai (Tulocay) and the tribelet Meyakama (Mayacamas). Our collective name for those tribelets of "Wappo" is likely derived from the Spanish word for good-looking, "Guapo."

In establishing their missions, Alex described the Spanish as subjugating California's Indigenous populations, separating them from their culture and language. Spanish soldiers fortified missionaries with rifles and goods and the missionaries in turn forced Native Americans to work the land. Disease, displacement and outright murder decimated our South Patwin population

although countless numbers of mortars and pestles, obsidian projectile points, beads and baskets in Valley households still are testament to vanished lives of hunting, gathering, socializing, and observing sacred rites. But that they ploughed and planted and harvested was news. General Mariano Vallejo's brother Salvador described Indigenous help on his vine-free ranches thus:

“They tilled our soil, pastured our cattle, sheared our sheep, cut our lumber, built our houses, paddled our boats, made tiles for our houses, ground our grain, killed our cattle, and dressed their hides for market, and made our unburnt bricks; while the indian women made excellent servants, took good care of our children, made every one of our meals.”

The first Africans arrived in California with Spanish explorers in the 16th century. They developed unique communities, cultures, and shared experiences, yet Alex could find zero written about African Americans. (And she thought what was written about Native Americans was more suited to zoo animals than fellow human beings. Clothing and diet were recorded, but where were their myths?)

She could find a little written about the Chinese and the Braceros from the California Digital Newspaper Collection, yet there was virtually nothing describing the Black City in Napa that existed between 1860 and 1870. For the African American shop worker, janitor, or barber, while a branch of a church from San Francisco was formed in Napa, there was no real neighborhood,

no saloon, no place to gossip or hang out. They existed only as a name or nickname and date. Alex found the US Census records very unreliable, estimating its missing a quarter to a third of African Americans and about half of those who were Chinese.

In the 1870's most vineyard workers in the Valley were Chinese. Alex described a variety of anti-Chinese laws that were enacted starting in 1874. Registration information including a photograph was now required of every Chinese person. They were forbidden to own property or testify in court. (One could imagine the number of wrongs that could never be righted.) Until 1924, their children had no school they were allowed to attend. Neither Chinese nor Indigenous women had a hospital to which they could go. Alex found newspaper accounts that included every slur possible in the reporting of incidents involving the Chinese or Negro. “Rocking” and “rocked” were verbs used to describe the throwing of rocks at such a person. A local African American professor was even “egged” in the 1870's. Alex said every marginalized group has similar stories.

There was a Chinese wooden shantytown in Napa, two to three blocks off First Street, where the Chinese had to live in rented shanties. These shanties that ordinarily held hundreds of Chinese laborers grew to house thousands during harvest. Alex lamented that the Chinese are identified in records by the crops they picked—vineyards and hops, but no mention is made of their other occupations, their ages or marital status.

African Americans in the 20thC suffered from redlining, lending banks' denials of mortgages for houses in certain districts (bounded by red lines on maps in their offices). Alex's mother was only able to buy her own house through the complicity of her landlord.

During Alex's research, she began to seek out people's own stories as much as possible. For her history of the Chinese, she reached out to a Chinese American who is from the Napa of the 1970's. For Bracero history she turned to a Napa College administrator “expert,” and benefitted from the substantial information compiled by Joseph Callizo (former caretaker of Wantrup Preserve, Pope Valley) and Robert R. Smith about our local ranches. Joe and Bob were dedicated amateur historians (the “California Collaborators”) and at Joe's death in 2011, 8 truckloads of boxes of archives, willed to Napa County Historical Society, arrived on its front steps. *This Land Was Mexican Once: Histories of Resistance from Northern California* by Linda Heidenreich is full of Napa stories, and Alex says, “Local history is stories. My next book will be a culinary history of Napa Valley that I hope will be published next spring.”

In conclusion, Alex said the research for her *Hidden History of Napa Valley* allowed her to find the story of her community here and to form a clear, shared sense of place. ■

[Editor's note: Alex's *Lost Restaurants of Napa Valley and Their Recipes* was just published by American Palate, a Division of The History Press]

## Books on Wine Evening

*Heather Sandy Hebert, The New Architecture of Wine: 25 Spectacular California Wineries*

*Trincherro Napa Valley*

*Thursday, March 5, 2020*



*Above: Author Heather Sandy Hebert  
Right: With Heather in the Hospitality Center at  
Trincherro Napa Valley  
Tim Kennedy, photographer*



Heather is from Marin County where she grew up and now lives with her husband and four children. After college, Heather went to work in San Francisco for the architectural firm SB Architects, founded by her father Donald Sandy. After 25 years, she finally withdrew from SB in order to research and write what became *The New Architecture of Wine*, published by Gibbs Smith. Heather had

been marketing director at SB when she finally decided she couldn't wait any longer to write this book. She had been describing and promoting numerous winery and hospitality projects over the years and was keenly aware of a massive shift in wine estate architecture as the importance of design grew in the presentation of one's label.

Heather's lively writing about each of the 25 wineries she chose has been paired with



*Tasting Room, Trinchero Napa Valley. Tim Kennedy, photographer*

arresting exterior and interior views contributed by its photographer, including those by Adrian Gregorutti of Napa for seven of the wineries. Every winery was built (or in the case of Joseph Phelps Winery, had its tasting room complex completely remodeled) within the last ten years prior to publication and 12 of those 25 wineries are in the Napa Valley.

Among the 12 was our evening's host, Trinchero Napa Valley and its estate director, Bob Torres. The winery is one of five Heather grouped as "The New Agrarian" in the six categories she chose to organize the wineries she describes. The layout of Trinchero Napa Valley, its grounds, and three main buildings are by BAR Architects, San Francisco; landscaping is by Surface Design of San

Francisco; interiors are by Erin Martin Design, Saint Helena. Erin was able to join Bob and Heather for Q&A's at the end of Heather's talk.

We began the evening with Bob in the Tasting Room, where he welcomed us within its dramatic embrace. Bob gave an overview of the growth of the project, and then took those who wished for a



tour of the winery across the courtyard, wineglass in hand. Bob had majored in architecture at UC Berkeley and he and his wife Maria had thoroughly overseen each phase in the building of the estate. Bob admitted there had been a pause before the Tasting Room was constructed, after the winery and hospitality center had been built, as Bob's uncle had called a halt to the project. 'But Uncle Roger,' interposed Bob, 'I thought you told me there was no limit?' 'There wasn't, but you exceeded it,' his uncle drily replied.

Every part of the campus relates to the other through family and tradition. There are echoes of forebears throughout—in maps, photographs, recipes, names, and décor that remind the Trincheros of particular family members, recent incidents, and historical milestones.



*Left: An avid discussion; Right: Heather and Bob Torres take a question. Tim Kennedy, photographer*

The Trinchero family came to the Napa Valley in 1947 when brothers Mario and John Trinchero bought Sutter Home Winery, idle since Prohibition. Their family company, Trinchero Family Estates, now comprises 50 brands in almost 50 countries worldwide. Trinchero Napa Valley estate wines are the only wines made at Trinchero Napa Valley and include Mario's Cabernet Sauvignon and Mary's Sauvignon Blanc, named for Mario's wife. (Bob is their grandson.)

After an hour of easy conversation, wine and appetizers served among the rooms and settings of the Tasting Room and a tour of the Winery, the group adjourned to the Hospitality Center, the third spoke of the fountain-hubbed courtyard. At the Center, Heather gave us an overview of her career in writing about architecture, her deep appreciation of the personal expression of every owner's philosophy each new winery is, how inspiring she finds it, and then spoke in greater detail about the building of Trinchero Napa Valley. She had chosen not to illustrate her talk because she had wanted to keep it as informal as possible.





*Above Left: Carolyn opens the evening  
Above Right: With Bob in the Trinchero Napa Valley Winery  
Below Left: Heather with Erin Martin  
Below Right: A moment for toasting  
Tim Kennedy, photographer*



The range of materials, the framing of views, the scale of the structures—all were part of the desire to welcome the visitor to a simple farmhouse, true to the roots of the site (formerly Folie à Deux winery, purchased by Trinchero in 2004), and true both to the Trinchero family and the Napa Valley. Once inside each of the buildings one is drawn to its dramatic views of the Valley, the best accouterments technology has to offer, be it in the kitchen, the winery, or the tasting room, while the choice of materials always adheres to the historic underpinnings of this winemaking family whose founders landed at Ellis Island in the 1920's to eventually go West to seek their fortune.



*Above: With Bob in the Tasting Room  
Below: At the close of the evening, L to R: Ric Henry, Larry and Fran Heit  
Tim Kennedy, photographer*

Maritime motifs, unexpected amplifications of scale, recipes, letters, personal effects, tongue-in-cheek juxtapositions, all are here to startle, soothe, amuse, educate, and stimulate the visitor.

Bob joined Heather to elaborate, and then Erin was persuaded to join the fray. The three sat on the edge of an adjacent table to take questions from the floor. Questions varied from the broad to the particular as different aspects of the estate—the materials, their origins, the design, implementation and familial associations urged more explanation. As Heather said in conclusion, “Everything has a story here.”

Heather then signed books as we learned she is already under contract for her next—on houses in California’s wine country. The houses will have been built only in the last five years she said, because ‘architecture is all about innovation.’ Heather plans to bring a more geographically balanced representation to this next line-up, and has her eye on Paso Robles in particular, where ‘things are really happening.’

We wish to thank Heather, Erin, and Bob for their time and energy to make the program such a great success and Jean Martin and Trinchero Napa Valley for such thoughtful, delicious, and exuberant hospitality. The estate could not have better embodied the design of a spectacular California winery. ■

## Interview

### *Lynne Albrecht, Technical and Research Services Librarian*

*George and Elsie Wood Public Library, Saint Helena*

As Technical and Research Services Librarian at the George and Elsie Wood Public Library in Saint Helena (SHPL), Lynne Chaix Albrecht is the person best acquainted with the contents of the Napa Valley Wine Library Collection supported by NVWLA and housed in the Wine Library Wing of SHPL and its California Room. Lynne is also the great-granddaughter of Adrien Pierre Chaix.

The Chaix brothers, Adrien Pierre (AP) and Jean V. Chaix, came from Provence where they had heard about the Napa Valley and its ideal climate for grape growing and winemaking. 150 years ago they emigrated to California to buy vineyards up on Howell Mountain, in Rutherford and Oakville.

Jean V. also went into business with Adolphe Brun, planting hundreds of acres on Howell Mountain as well as building the Brun & Chaix Winery in Oakville (the Napa Wine Company today). In 1877 it was the 9th winery to be bonded in California. AP later established his own French American Wine Company in Rutherford on land he had bought in 1909 and planted to vineyard with cuttings brought from the Médoc. Eventually, AP sold his winery and part of his vineyards to Georges de Latour (for Beaulieu). The AP Chaix Family continued



*Librarian Lynne Albrecht*

to farm the other part and sell its fruit, and today two of Lynne’s cousins make Chaix Wines. Her son Braiden is the winemaker for Mayacamas Vineyards.

Lynne grew up on the Chaix family property on Manly Lane in Rutherford. She went to college at California State University, Chico and, a talented athlete, graduated in recreation

administration. This required a second credential in teaching and while Lynne was studying for it, an abiding interest in library science took hold. Lynne was captivated by the many diverse materials available for research.

She and her husband moved to Sonoma where they raised their three children. Lynne taught part-time in different schools and developed an interest in children's library services. In 2004 she started working for the Napa County Library and in October of 2015 came to its Saint Helena branch to assist Leslie Stanton, Children's Librarian. Technical Services head Bobbie Vierra was retiring and Lynne was persuaded to apply for that full-time position, which she was offered in December, 2015. Lynne is now not only in charge of all book ordering and accessioning for SHPL, but graciously accepted the role of Reference Librarian.

Her son Braiden says she really enjoys her job and Lynne says she just really likes what she's doing. She enjoys the wide variety of reference questions and the excellent reputation of the NVWL Collection that draws visitors in from everywhere. She says the Heinz Collection is one of the first places to try for answers to questions about family and property. The answers are often there in William Heinz's interviews and historical reports.

There are 2,107 volumes in the NVWL Collection, plus 600 rare books in the California Room, plus the volumes of wine labels in the Burt Wuttken Collection. There are also 15 wine-



*Labels from the Burt Wuttken Collection, Saint Helena Public Library*

related subscriptions online and in print; and files of ephemera—price lists, menus, photographs, glass slides, and other unique materials.

When Lynne first started as Reference Librarian, a woman in Colorado was studying for her Masters of Wine and asked Lynne about the history of the retail side of wine in California. It took 8 months of emailing back and forth for the woman to finally narrow her research to shelf prices of California Cabernet Sauvignon from 1961 to 1976. Lynne had no idea a research question could go on and on for so long.

More recently, she has been tracing the history of a volume in Latin about winemaking. It was

published in the 16th century and given to the Napa Valley Wine Library Collection by a donor in Italy in the 1960's when he learned via Paco Gould that the Collection was in need of “classic works” about wine. We have let Lynne know about Paco's papers at the Briscoe Collection of University of Texas at Austin, thanks to Jullianne Ballou.

And now James Gump has written to thank Lynne for all her “incredible support” in his research for his book, *Maestro: André Tchelistcheff and the Rebirth of Napa Valley*, to be published in the fall of 2021 by the University of Nebraska Press. Not only can research take time, it can span continents and generations. ■

## Editor's Letter

Dear Reader,

First off, a thank you to all our presenters who gave so generously of their time and expertise to provide us with such exceptional Books on Wine Evenings. It certainly was a trifecta. And our heartfelt appreciation for the three hosts who provided such hospitable venues, wines and small bites: the staff, consultants and volunteers for Saint Helena Public Library and NVWLA; historic Glendale Ranch and NVWLA Board Member Lindsey Wiseman; Trinchero Napa Valley and estate director, Bob Torres. We are lucky, indeed, to have such splendid support.

Naturally, we regret the postponement of our other events planned for 2020, but welcome the challenge of how to provide you with programs while adhering to our mandated Social Distancing.

Because we won't have the uptick in membership from those wishing to attend our Wine Seminar or the Annual Tasting, we have had to curtail a number of other activities. This issue of the REPORT will be largely online, with only a limited number of printed copies available. And to

afford these, we are asking for a donation of \$10.00 from anyone wishing to be sent a copy via US Mail.

We also have had to put on hold the purchase of any additions this year to the Napa Valley Wine Library Collection we support at the Saint Helena Public Library. We'd like to thank Silver Oak Wine Cellars for its donation of a copy of its chef, Dominic Orsini's *Life in a Cabernet Kitchen*, and Dario Sattui for his donation of *Castello di Amorosa: A Labor of Love*. If you would like to donate a book on the list for 2020 to the Napa Valley Wine Library Collection, please be in touch with librarian Lynne Albrecht, [lynne@shpl.org](mailto:lynne@shpl.org) or (707) 963-5244 x 706. If you would prefer to make a dollar donation, please go to our Membership webpage and select [Napa Valley Wine Library Collection Fund](#). Here are the current titles for addition to the Collection:

Richard Baxter, *Wine & Health: Making sense of the new science...*  
Alexandria Brown, *Lost Restaurants of Napa Valley...*



Nina Caplan, *The Wandering Vine: Wine, the Romans and Me*  
Lin Chong, *Wine Labels Art & Design*  
Maryse Chevreiere, *Grasping the Grape*  
Alice Feiring, *Natural Wine for the People*  
Eric Guerra, *When Great Wine is Not Enough*  
Victoria James, *Wine Girl: The Obstacles, Humiliations and Triumphs...*  
Linda Leigh Paul, *Wine Country Living: Vineyards and Homes of Northern California and the Pacific*  
Cece Monroe, *The Rosé Lover's Companion*  
Jens Priewe, *Wine from Grape to Glass*  
Simon Woolf, *Amber Revolution: How the World Learned to Love Orange Wine*

Many thanks,

Diana H. Stockton  
Editor-in-Chief

# Chronology of the Annual Tasting, 1963–2020

- 1963 *White Riesling* and *Cabernet Sauvignon* in former showroom of St. Helena Lumber Company with various wineries
- 1964 St. Helena Public Library, Carnegie Building is remodeled under the direction of Les Niemi, architect, to accommodate NVWL collections
- 1965 *Pinot Noir* in showroom of Valley Chevrolet, St. Helena with six wineries
- 1966 *Sherry* at Hurd Candle Studio, St. Helena with nine wineries
- 1966 *Johannisberg Riesling* in the gardens of Spottswoode with nine wineries
- 1967 *Cabernet Sauvignon* in the gardens of Spottswoode with eight wineries
- 1968 *Pinot Chardonnay* in the gardens of Spottswoode with eight wineries
- 1969 *Sauternes* in the gardens of Spottswoode with ten wineries
- 1970 *Johannisberg Riesling* in the gardens of Spottswoode with 11 wineries
- 1971 *Chablis type wines* in the poolside gardens of Beaulieu with ten wineries
- 1972 *Vins Rosé* on the lawns of Charles Krug Winery with 12 wineries
- 1973 Red wines other than Cabernet Sauvignon (*Gamay Beaujolais, Gamay Vivace, Grignolino, Napa Gamay, and Zinfandel*) at the Niebaum Estate of Oakville Vineyards with 12 wineries
- 1974 *Johannisberg Riesling* at the Niebaum Estate of Oakville Vineyards with 11 wineries
- 1975 *Chardonnay* on the lawns of Charles Krug Winery with 16 wineries
- 1976 *Cabernet Sauvignon* on the lawns of Charles Krug Winery with 21 wineries
- 1977 *Zinfandel* in the courtyard at Robert Mondavi Winery with 19 wineries
- 1978 *Johannisberg Riesling* in the courtyard of Robert Mondavi Winery with 24 wineries
- 1979 *Pinot Noir* at Inglenook with 25 wineries
- 1980 *Sauvignon Blanc* and *Chenin Blanc* at Sterling Vineyards with 22 wineries
- 1981 *Cabernet Sauvignon* at Silverado Country Club & Resort with 29 wineries
- 1982 *Chardonnay* at Inglenook Vineyards with 51 wineries
- 1983 *Zinfandel* and *Pinot Noir* at Silverado Country Club & Resort with 46 wineries
- 1984 *Riesling* and *Gewurztraminer* and related varieties at Robert Mondavi Winery with 33 wineries
- 1985 *Cabernet Sauvignon* at Silverado Country Club & Resort with 76 wineries
- 1986 *Chardonnay* at Silverado Country Club & Resort with 81 wineries
- 1987 *Cabernet Sauvignon* and *Merlot* at Silverado Country Club & Resort with 94 wineries
- 1988 *Sauvignon Blanc* at Silverado Country Club & Resort with 62 wineries
- 1989 *Red Wines other than Cabernet Sauvignon* at Silverado Country Club & Resort with 52 wineries
- 1990 *Chardonnay* at Silverado Country Club & Resort with 107 wineries
- 1991 *Cabernet Sauvignon* at Silverado Country Club & Resort with 96 wineries
- 1992 *Sauvignon Blanc* at Silverado Country Club & Resort with 57 wineries
- 1993 *Red Wines other than Cabernet Sauvignon* at Silverado Country Club & Resort with 99 wineries
- 1994 *Chardonnay* at Silverado Country Club & Resort with 102 wineries
- 1995 *Cabernet Sauvignon* at Silverado Country Club & Resort with 123 wineries
- 1996 *White Wines other than Chardonnay* at Silverado Country Club & Resort with 72 wineries
- 1997 *Red Wines outside the Cabernet Sauvignon family* at Silverado Country Club & Resort with 72 wineries
- 1998 *Chardonnay* at Silverado Country Club & Resort with 101 wineries
- 1999 *Cabernet Sauvignon* and other *Red Bordeaux Varieties* at Silverado Country Club & Resort with 108 wineries
- 2000 *White Wines other than Chardonnay* at Silverado Country Club & Resort with 80 wineries
- 2001 *Red Wines beyond the Cabernet Sauvignon family* at Silverado Country Club & Resort with 84 wineries
- 2002 *Vintner's Choice* at Silverado Country Club & Resort with 126 wineries
- 2003 *Chardonnay* at Silverado Country Club & Resort with 92 wineries
- 2004 *Cabernet Sauvignon and Related Varietals* at Silverado Country Club & Resort with 112 wineries
- 2005 *White Wines* at Silverado Country Club & Resort with 72 wineries
- 2006 *Red Wines other than Cabernet Sauvignon* at Silverado Country Club & Resort with 80 wineries
- 2007 *Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Carménère, Malbec, Merlot, Petit Verdot, and their blends* at Silverado Country Club & Resort with 98 wineries
- 2008 *White Wine Varietals* at Silverado Country Club & Resort with 56 wineries
- 2009 *Red Wines other than Cabernet Varieties* at Silverado Club & Resort with 67 wineries
- 2010 *Cabernet Varieties* at Silverado Resort & Spa with 88 wineries
- 2011 *White, Rosé* and *Sparkling Wines* at Silverado Resort & Spa with 63 wineries
- 2012 *Vintner's Choice of two wines: a current and older release* at Silverado Resort & Spa with 99 wineries
- 2013 *Winemakers Favorites, a Vintner's Choice* at Silverado Resort & Spa with 72 wineries
- 2014 *From Vineyard to Label: In Celebration of Terroir* at Silverado Resort & Spa with 76 wineries
- 2015 *Toasting the Twelves* at Silverado Resort & Spa with 75 wineries
- 2016 *A Sense of Place: Honoring Napa Valley Terroir* at Silverado Resort & Spa with 73 wineries
- 2017 *Napa Valley: A Timeless Classic* at Silverado Resort & Spa with 68 wineries
- 2018 *Designated Vineyard Wines of Napa Valley* at Silverado Resort & Spa with 69 wineries
- 2019 *Discovering Wine Styles of Napa Valley* at Silverado Resort & Spa with 62 wineries
- 2020 Annual Tasting postponed to 2021 because of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic

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# Membership

An annual membership in the Napa Valley Wine Library Association sustains an incomparable collection of wine-related materials at St. Helena Public Library for use by the general public and the opportunity to attend a number of wine education events during the year.

Free admission to the Annual Tasting is a benefit of membership, as is a subscription to our semi-annual Napa Valley Wine Library REPORT.

To join NVWLA, please complete the form and mail it with a check for \$125.00 (\$235.00 for two) payable to:

NVWLA

Post Office Box 328

St. Helena, CA 94574

Or join online at: [napawinelibrary.com/join](http://napawinelibrary.com/join)

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