



# The Wines of California

Elaine Chukan Brown

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Academie du Vin Library

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The Classic Wine Library

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## THE WINES OF CALIFORNIA

ELAINE CHUKAN BROWN

- A comprehensive guide to one of the greatest wine regions in the world.
- Perfect for all wine students, professionals and the wine-curious
- Colour maps and photographs

*"It's less of a traditional reference book and more of a meditation on place – through its people, purpose, and possibility. With a healthy yet necessary and perhaps overdue dose of historical context, political awareness, nuance, and care, they offer a portrait of California wine that finally acknowledges all the hands that shaped it."* — **Decanter**

*"The most complete panorama yet of California wine today... An ambitious, thought-provoking book, The Wines of California is a new classic for you to read and add to your bookshelf."* — **World of Fine Wine**

*"... It's as interested in power structures as in Parker points, and that's what makes it essential."* — **Forbes**

*"... anybody interested in how California wine became a world force ought to read this book."* — **NY Times**

*"This book is core, essential. For anyone just beginning their journey, this will put wine in context in straightforward language with little jargon.... Brown's book is both current and timeless. Chukan Brown takes an in-depth look at the forces that made, moved and continue to shape California wine. In investigating the history, they look hard at the instrumental part played by Indigenous Peoples and the reliance of the wine (and other agricultural sectors) on inexpensive farm labour. It will appeal to an audience far beyond the typical wine book reader."* — **Grape Collective**

A concise, complete, smartly delivered and cohesive book for serious readers and students of wine. Focusing on the world's fourth largest producer of wine – California – the book takes readers on a journey through the golden state's wines, paying due attention to famous regions such as Sonoma and Napa as well as introducing readers to exciting up-and-coming regions to explore.

The book is divided into three major sections. The first presents the key ideas that help make sense of California wine as a whole, including the history of California wine in brief, how the topography delivers California's overarching climatic and soil conditions, and the basics of vineyard and winery factors relevant to the state such as the role of the AVA.

The second section takes each major region in turn and looks into its history, growing conditions and varieties, as well as discussing the most significant and interesting producers. A final section looks at current themes in Californian wine and discusses the future of the industry across the state.

- Explains all the state's AVAs, examining the development, growing conditions and varietal trends for each.
- Profiles the main producers and individuals shaping the wine industry today.
- A useful reference on California that also provides alternative insights and insider knowledge.
- Author Elaine Chukan Brown is a prolific commentator on the wines of California and a speaker at events around the globe.
- Supported by colour maps and photos.

**Elaine Chukan Brown** is a writer, speaker, and global wine educator. Brown is the Napa Valley specialist for *Wine Enthusiast* and previously served as the Executive Editor US for JancisRobinson.com, a columnist for *Decanter* magazine, and a contributing writer to *Wine & Spirits* magazine. They contributed to both the 4th and 5th editions of *Oxford Companion to Wine*, the 8th edition of the *World Atlas of Wine*, and the compilations *On Burgundy* and *On California* from Académie du Vin Library. Indigenous (Inupiaq and Unangan-Sugpiag) from what is now Alaska, Brown has dedicated their career to the intersection of sustainability, climate action, and reducing gatekeeping in the wine industry. They co-founded the Diversity in Wine Leadership Forum and have advised diversity initiatives in multiple countries. Brown serves as a judge for the Texsom Awards, head judge for the 67 Pall Mall Communicator Awards, and is a board member of the Wine Writer Symposium.

