



# The Wines of California

Elaine Chukan Brown

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- Elaine Chukan Brown is a prolific commentator on the wines of California and a speaker at events around the globe
- California produces and exports more wine than most countries so for any serious wine enthusiast this is an essential addition to the *Classic Wine Library*
- Looks beyond the prestige names and big exporters to explore the varied and innovative winemaking across the state

As the fourth largest producer of wine in the world, California could easily be written about in multiple regional installments, but here California wine expert Elaine Chukan Brown presents serious readers and students of wine with a single concise, complete, smartly delivered and cohesive book on the subject. 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. The large middle section of the book examines each of the California wine regions in turn. The focus through this regional section is on the growing conditions within the particular region, varietal trends, how location has factored into each region's historical development, and how to differentiate the recognised American Viticultural Areas (AVAs) within the region. Key facts are summarised in easy-reference boxes within the text. Significant producers who have had an influence on the development of the region are discussed and highlighted in the body of the text as well as featuring in a quick-reference box at the end of each chapter. In the third major section Chukan Brown takes an analytical look at the industry now and by looking at key themes that have emerged in the industry examines what the future may hold for Californian wines.

**Elaine Chukan Brown** serves as 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-Sugpiaq) 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.