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# GOOD HARVEST

## Odette Estate Winery

Napa, California, USA  
Signum Architecture

Photography by Adrian Gregorutti



Proof positive, as if it were still required, that sustainable design can also be aesthetically pleasing design, this small winery in Napa by Signum Architecture nestles into its hillside site like a cosy retreat. The landscape of the Napa Valley is unfairly beautiful, and Odette's land is a picturesque tableau of rolling hills, clumps of green trees, and tidy, alluring rows of vines. The new building borrows the swell of those hills under a curved green roof that melds right into any distant view. The only principal facade – the one facing outward – is formed of a series of tall, sliding-panel doors in perforated metal that appear like billowing sails, thanks to their curvaceous profiles. Since this area of California also enjoys temperate weather, the building can remain 'open' most of the time, allowing for functional movement of workers and equipment between the screens. The wavy edges of the screens vary on each panel, but fit together to close when needed, making the screens seem like white veils or sheer curtains enlarged to a dramatic scale.

Inside the sensuous shed that is this structure, things get very simple: the large roof shelters a huge hall populated with shipping containers that hold the more specific functions such as laboratory or office space. This approach has allowed costs to remain modest, and the space to stay practical; after all, this is a working farm building.



On the roof, an array of solar panels set amid the green planting further lowers the carbon footprint of the winery, as does the way the whole structure is carved into the hillside at its sides and rear flanks. Odette is a 'one-faced' piece of architecture, and exploits that frontality all the way, keeping its formal focus on just a couple of big moves. And like what it produces, this building will undoubtedly improve with age.

