

Wine Spectator

Wineries to Watch

FIVE
RISING
STARS IN
NAPA
VALLEY



Rising above Napa Valley proper is Howell Mountain, home to Cade, a winery where going green is paramount—including the use of a special concrete made from recycled materials.

Cade A Leader in Green Design

High on Howell Mountain at the eastern flank of Napa Valley, Cade Winery is at the cutting edge of green winemaking. The winery, whose name is a Shakespearean reference to a cask or barrel, was built to reflect the rugged terrain, resting on a steep, rocky slope surrounded by towering trees. It is a sister winery to PlumpJack, owned by San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom and billionaire Gordon Getty.

Cade's wines are as exciting as its \$16-million, 15,000-square-foot facility, which was designed for environmental sustainability. The winery—a recipient of an LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification—is mostly concrete, steel and glass, with little wood. (The concrete is a special mix made from recycled materials.) It also features solar panels and wall insulation made from recycled jeans. Barrels are aged in a connecting cave.

The emphasis of the winery is on Cabernet Sauvignon—with three different bottlings—and Sauvignon Blanc. To date, the 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Cuvée (91 points, \$60) best shows the direction. Rich and vibrant, even powerful, delivering grapey currant and herb notes, it's a tight and complex wine. The Cuvée is a blend of four Napa vineyards: To Kalon, Dr. Crane, Ink Grade and Las Amigas. The Sauvignon Blancs from 2006 (88, \$26) and 2007 (87, \$26) are fresh and lively, mixing grassy herbal scents with pure, focused passion fruit and citrus flavors.

Coming this fall, two more Cabernets. The 2006 Howell Mountain bottling (\$74, 1,500 cases), from the Outpost and Tru vineyards, is denser and very concentrated, yet avoids being overly tannic, offering an elegant mouthfeel. The 2006 Howell Mountain estate bottling (\$68, 300 cases), which contains 16 percent Merlot, has a minty edge, yet is intense, vibrant and elegant, with hints of minerality, lively acidity and fine-grained tannins. Anthony Biagi oversees winemaking at this innovative model for the future.