

20 Small and Mighty California Winemakers Who Deserve Your Dollars This Year Farm + Table Written by Bonnie Graves

Now, more than ever, it matters what we read and where we spend our money. Some news sources would have you believe that the wine industry is booming. While it is true that at-home consumption of wine has skyrocketed during quarantine, much of that grape juice is coming from corporate producers who make millions off cases of fairly generic stuff. Meanwhile, the family farmers and artisanal winemakers who depend on word-of-mouth or on high-end restaurant placements have struggled to transition to direct-to-consumer channels. If you believe in shopping locally, now is the time to support small California producers whose livelihoods and businesses are currently threatened.

Below is a thoughtfully curated list of 20 to support in 2020. Each of these 20 wonderful wineries deserves your dollars. Each makes small-batch, carefully vinified wines with love and commitment; most are made with organically grown grapes and with sustainable vineyard practices too. From the sandy hills of Malibu where the Woolsey Fire ravaged Semler just two years ago to the moody Anderson Valley in Mendocino where pinot noir quietly flourishes, we've spanned the Golden State and its many appellations (or AVAs, "American Viticultural Areas").

Lushly fragrant Russian River Viognier, world-class coastal Grenache, iconic Napa Cabernet Sauvignon and more...each of these bottles is a hand-crafted testament to the spirit of California that we here at Golden State strive to embody—innovative, resilient, environmentally sound and fun. And yes, delicious.

Terre Rouge, Tête-à-Tête

Sierra Foothills, 2014 – SRP \$25 (3,000 cases made)

If ever there were a California wine-producing region that deserves more love, it's the Sierra Foothills. Winemaker Bill Easton has been crafting extraordinary wines from this inland appellation for years, and this particular blend of grenache, syrah and mourvèdre is an absolute STEAL at under \$30 a bottle. Named one of the top 100 wineries of the year in 2019 by *Wine & Spirits* magazine, Terre Rouge and sister brand Easton are wines that more than deserve a place in your cellar.