

Robb Report

The 3 Most Exciting New Napa Valley Wineries Debuting This Fall

There are a lot of labels coming out of America's top region, but there's plenty of room for more.

By Mike DeSimone and Jeff Jenssen



It's no secret that Napa Valley ranks among our favorite wine regions, and it certainly tops the list for many of our readers as well. As much as we are always excited to hear how the harvest is going or to be among the first to taste a new vintage from established players, we're also intrigued when completely new wineries enter the scene. Although there are already more than 1,000 wine brands coming out of Napa Valley, there is always room for newcomers to fill our cellars and delight our palates. Among the new arrivals we've tried this year, the ones that top our list right now are Annulus, Arborum Napa Valley, and Palisades Canyon, three brand new and completely different wineries that share a common thread in that each has brought in top winemaking talent.

Annulus is debuting with three wines, two single-vineyard bottlings and a Napa Valley cuvée crafted by the powerhouse team of well-known Napa winemaker Nigel Kinsman and consulting enologist Michel Rolland. While Rolland hardly needs an introduction, native Australian Kinsman is the former winemaker at Araujo Estate who also makes wine at Accendo Cellars, Bella Oaks, and Kinsman Eades, the label he runs with his wife. The acclaimed winemaker has been on board since founders Luke Evnin and Deann Wright first conceived the idea in 2019; his first job was to secure grapes from two historic Napa Valley locations for their single vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon bottlings, Vine Hill Ranch Vineyard in Oakville and Beckstoffer Las Piedras at the foot of Spring Mountain, which was the first vineyard planted in St. Helena. Consultant Michel Rolland joined in 2023 to bring his magic blending touch to the project.

Annulus 2021 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon is sourced from select lots in Stags Leap District and Diamond Mountain plus heritage fruit from top sites throughout the valley. A touch of Petit Verdot adds a floral note to aromas of raspberry, Simka plum, pencil lead, and Mediterranean herbs. Polished tannins and full mouthfeel supply a gorgeous backdrop for flavors of black cherry, blackberry cobbler, and black olive tapenade with a soft note of cigar box that lingers on the expressive finish.