

## CalTIA Winery of the Year: Wente Vineyards



*Beyond being recognized for the winemaker's excellent wine, a major component to the decision process in awarding the Winery of the Year includes the winery's contribution to developing the California tourism brand. The award recognizes innovation, success and commitment to the travel industry.*

Located just east of San Francisco in the historic Livermore Valley, Wente Vineyards is recognized as one of California's premier wine country destinations, featuring wine tastings, fine dining world-class concerts and championship golf. The winery blends traditional and innovative winemaking practices, drawing from 3,000 acres of sustainably-farmed 100% estate vineyards, Wente Vineyards are picture-perfect in selling California's brand.

The country's oldest continuously owned and operated family winery, Wente Vineyards is led today by the fourth and fifth generations of the Wente family. Wente Vineyards put sustainability in practice since their foundation in 1883, not only pioneering winemaking in California, but also establishing the Livermore Valley as a premiere locale for grape growing in the 19th century.

More than 125 years of committed stewardship to the land has led to the development of Wente Vineyards' *Farming for the Future*, a system of sustainable viticultural practices designed to produce the best quality wines with the least environmental impact. This philosophy extends to all aspects of winery operations, where energy efficiency, waste reduction, recycling and social responsibility are all integral to the culture.

Rare for a winery of their scale, all of the wines within the Wente Vineyards portfolio are Estate Grown, crafted by 5th generation winemaker, Karl D. Wente from estate vineyards in Livermore Valley and Arroyo Seco.

The family has pioneered marketing the lifestyle of the wine country with the establishment of the Course at Wente Vineyards, in 1998, the Concert Series in 1996 and the Restaurant over 20 years ago, all onsite. They have evolved those businesses to support their sustainable philosophies. The Restaurant sources its ingredients from the garden and local purveyors within 100 miles, reflecting an ardent commitment to the utilization of local produce. The Course at Wente Vineyards was recently designated a "Certified Audubon Cooperative

Sanctuary” by Audubon International Program. To achieve this recognition a golf course must demonstrate that they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas, including Environmental Planning, Wildlife & Habitat Management, Outreach and Education, Chemical Use Reduction and Safety, Water Conservation, and Water Quality Management. Also, Wente Vineyards will be among the first wineries certified sustainable by the Certified California Sustainable Winegrowing, a statewide certification program created by the California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance, launched in January 2010.

For more information, visit <http://www.wentevineyards.com>.