

A photograph of a white, Mediterranean-style building at night. The building features arched windows and doorways, some of which are illuminated from within, casting a warm glow. A large palm tree stands prominently in front of the building. The scene is surrounded by lush greenery, and the overall atmosphere is serene and elegant.

Founded in 1883, Wente Vineyards is the oldest continuously-operated, family-owned winery in America. Today the estate is comprised of vineyards in the Livermore Valley, San Francisco and Arroyo Seco appellations and is operated by the fourth and fifth generations of the Wente family.



IMAGES This page – Above – Wente vineyards estate vines.
 Middle – The Wente Family; 4th generation Jordon, Karl D., Caroline and Niki and 5th generation Carolyn, Eric and Phil.
 Below – Wente vineyards wine portfolio. Opposite page – Wente event centre at night.

In 1883 Carl H. Wente purchased 47 acres of land in the Livermore valley, 20 miles east of San Francisco bay. He was a hard-working and entrepreneurial man who was extremely passionate about the things that brought him joy, including his love of winemaking. In 1912, 2nd Generation Ernest Wente persuaded his father and founder to import Chardonnay cuttings from the vine nursery at the University of Montpellier in France, and hand-picked the best of the vines. Today, the impact of his work is still felt across the Californian wine industry, with 80% of all Californian Chardonnay stemming from the original Wente Clone.

5th Generation winegrower Karl D. Wente has continued the family’s legacy with the Wente clone by using it to produce four different styles of Chardonnay: Morning Fog Chardonnay, Single Vineyard Riva Ranch Chardonnay, Small Lot Eric’s Chardonnay and Nth Degree Chardonnay.

The status of Wente wines is universally recognised and they are now sold in all 50 states of the USA and in over 70 countries worldwide.

*California’s First Family of Chardonnay.
 Today 80% of all California Chardonnay
 stems from the Wente clone*



In 2010, Wente Vineyards was among the first wineries to receive the Certified California Sustainable Winegrowing designation, and one of the only wineries to certify every aspect of its business.

In November 2011 they received the 2011 American Winery of the Year award from Wine Enthusiast magazine and more recently they were presented with the Legendary Family of Chardonnay award from the SOMM journal at the International Chardonnay Symposium in 2016.

The Wente Estate is comprised of vineyards in the Livermore Valley, San Francisco and Arroyo Seco – each with its own special growing conditions. The Livermore Valley, just twenty miles east of San Francisco Bay, benefits from a unique maritime climate that is influenced by the Bay and Pacific Ocean. This climate, together with a high concentration of gravelly loam soils, provides the ideal conditions for producing well balanced wines. Arroyo Seco, Monterey, is a cooler region with an extended growing season which enables the grapes to retain their natural acidity and intense varietal character. Soils replete with shale and limestone deposits provide excellent drainage and minerals, both of which impart significant flavour components and balance to the wines.

Wente produce a number of different wines from their vineyards in these appellations:

Wente **Estate Grown wines** are named after the unique growing

conditions of the estate vineyards from which they are sourced. These wines include Morning Fog Chardonnay, Southern Hills Cabernet Sauvignon, Louis Mel Sauvignon Blanc, Sandstone Merlot, Riverbank Riesling and Beyer Ranch Zinfandel.

Single vineyard wines are grown in specific vineyard blocks which are named after the pioneers who were closely involved in the history of Wente’s winemaking tradition. They include Riva Ranch Chardonnay, Riva Ranch Pinot Noir and Charles Wetmore Cabernet Sauvignon.

The Nth Degree is a selection of handcrafted, limited production wines with a focus on small lots that reflect individual terroirs. To achieve this, fifth generation winegrower Karl D. Wente has selected varietals that have a strong association with the Livermore Valley and Arroyo Seco appellations, and only the best wines are selected, regardless of vintage or variety.

IMAGES This page – Bottom left – Karl D. Wente in the estate owned vineyards. Top right – Wente estate and golf course. Bottom right – Garden fire with Charles Wetmore Cabernet Sauvignon. Opposite page – Above – Murrieta’s Well gravity flow winery at twilight. Below – Murrieta’s Well Whip and Spur.



Murrieta's Well was originally propagated by Louis Mel in 1884 with vineyard cuttings from Chateau d'Yquem and Chateau Margaux. During the same year, he built a gravity-flow winery into the hillside adjacent to the property's artesian well. In 1933, Ernest Wente purchased the estate from Mel and in 1990, fourth generation Philip Wente and winemaker Sergio Traverso revived the historic estate. Today Murrieta's Well specialises in producing terroir driven, limited production blends such as **The Whip** – an approachable blend of aromatic white grapes – and **The Spur** – a true Livermore Valley red blend.



Estate Grown wines are named after the unique growing conditions of the estate vineyards from which they are sourced



Last but not least, the **Hayes Ranch** range of wines are named after the Hayes, a true California ranching family whose livelihood depended on the land. Today the Wente winemaking team seeks to preserve the Hayes family tradition by crafting bright, delicious wines from premier California vineyards.

Wente Family Estates are recognised as one of California's leading wine country destinations. The property hosts world class concerts and offers wine tastings, award winning fine dining and championship golf.