

FOOD & WINE

special issue

JUNE 2005

get grilling!

Greatest hits
from the
greatest grillers

Bobby Flay,
Steven Raichlen
and more stars

The Best of Napa

our chefs
let loose
the menu for a
wheeling
weekend

Yountville

Although the first Napa Valley vines were planted in Yountville in 1836, the area only earned AVA status in 1999. That's only one of several surprising facts about Yountville. Another is that its biggest winery, **Domaine Chandon**, doesn't make any Yountville-appellation wines. Finally, while Cabernet Sauvignon is the most important grape of Napa, Yountville produces a range of wines, everything from Chardonnay to Zinfandel. Even so—and despite the fact that the climate here is actually a little cool for heat-loving Cabernet—the appellation's best-known wines are Cabernet-based.

Christian Moueix's **Dominus** is one of these. Firm and even a bit austere in some vintages, Dominus is also classic Yountville Cabernet: elegant and balanced, neither a fruit bomb nor a tannic monster. A few newer Yountville wineries, like **Gemstone**, **Rocca Family Vineyards** and **Keever Vineyards**, are turning out more generous wines. The newest Yountville entrant, **Kapcsándy Family Winery**, is particularly promising: The 2004 Cabernet-Merlot blend, made by the famed Helen Turley, is concentrated but also elegant.

Valley's
wineries
it & save
r's guide

with
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also
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