**California Wineries**

The history of wine in California goes back to the 1600’s. The first recorded planting wine yard was by the Missionary. In 1779, Junipero Serra, "The Father of California wine," planted the first sustainable wine yard in the Mission of San Diego de Alcala. The vine was called "Mission Grape," which was the dominating vine production until 1880. The first documented imported wine vines were brought from Europe, specially France and Italy. Until 1980, the wine industry was dominated by the Bordeaux varietals and Chardonnay. A wave of Italian winemaker’s dubbed “Cal-Ital” reinvigorated the industry with new ones like Syrah, Viognier, Sangiovese and Pinot Grigio.

The advantage for California is the warm weather and humidity, which allows many wineries to use very ripe fruit and creates, also, the opportunity for higher alcohol levels (many wines having over 13.5%). There are several types of wine. Cabernet Sauvignon put California on the world’s wine map; Merlot is the highest selling of all varietal; Pinot Noir which is more intense and fruit style; Zinfandel which the red is more acid and the white sweeter. While the grape does have European origins, Californian Zinfandel is considered a unique style grape. The optimal climate conditions allows to make a vintage dated Sparkling Wine every year. That we can see, hard-earned secrets of soil, climate and wine have been passed from generation to generation, providing California wine with its unique legacy and spectacular range. Today, California is America’s top wine producer and a billion dollar industry. California makes 90% of all U.S. wine and is the world’s 4th leading wine producer after France, Italy and Spain. Wine is also a lure for tourists in California and this brought the hospitality industry. They can stay at luxurious hotels and eat at gourmet restaurants. The most famous areas that attract people are Napa Valley, Sonoma and Mendocino. The California wine industry continuous to grow and will continue to be an important part of the California economy.

4/14/15

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