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Joys of Spring
春之趣

Wines of California

Blessed by the Bay Smooched by the Sun

海湾环抱和阳光普照下的加州美酒

by Nicky Xu

Poet wine estates, sprawling vineyards, flourishing farms, rippling creeks, Hispanic landmarks, festive markets, quaint neighborhoods, manicured parks, trendy cafes, and winding streets, these are but a few scenic enclaves making up California's picture perfect landscape. Rolling hills above the blue, windy sea shimmer under the golden sun, vanish every now and then veiled by the passing fog. The changing visual dramas unfold from dawn to dusk, making visitors not want to leave, but leave if they must only with their hearts fallen behind.

美丽的庄园，茂密狂热的葡萄园，碧波荡漾的小溪，标志性西班牙建筑，热闹的市场，古朴的街坊，修剪整齐的公园，时尚的咖啡馆，蜿蜒曲折的街道，这一切点缀地风景如画的加州。蔚蓝的天穹下是连绵起伏的丘陵，荡漾的碧波在阳光照耀下闪烁，飘飞的云雾如同笼罩着一层面纱，文化莫测的美景奇观从黎明拉开序幕，一直延续到黄昏，使得人们流连忘返。

The long haul from Beijing to California could have been much better if I were to board an aircraft with provisions more than the basics, for survival, an obvious result of the airlines' desperate cost cutting measures. Flight attendants, bordering retirement age, ramped to tend to the narrow aisles in cold routines, treating passengers like another batch of statistics to get over with. Yet I, with my limited reservoir of patience, was surprisingly unaffected by the dearth of amenities, let alone in-flight services as marginal as the food they serve on board. My one and only focus was to get to San Francisco as soon as I can without qualms. 1. For the much awaited wine journey courtesy of the California Wine Institute (CWI) and 2. To revisit the city by the Bay where I once spent my wildest years and left my heart behind.

从北京到加州的长途旅行，机上的服务尤为简单，航空公司降低成本或训练已带来明显效果。我在拥挤的飞机通道中在狭窄的过道中步履维艰，为乘客提供服务，没有热情、幽默、零乱，我只希望自己在电影中扮演一位对旅途一无所知的新移民在旧金山。参加期待已久的加州葡萄酒协会（CWI）组织的葡萄酒之旅，重温这座海湾城市，在那里我曾度过了疯狂的岁月，留下无法抹去的美好记忆。



Author Nicky Xu

Courtesy: Benno, CWI University of China

Napa Valley

纳帕谷

Time trek back 60 million years ago, the land was formed by volcanic and tectonic activities. The result was a valley of rich and diverse soil structures ranging from stony to clayish to over 50 types of soil among which three are dominant: Volcanic soil, fertile and rich with minerals; maritime soil, formed from ocean floor with high concentration of fossils and nutrients; and alluvial soil, sediments and deposits accumulated from water and flood. With over 45,000 acres of vineyards, Napa wine valley prides itself with its signature Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc, amongst others.

时间回到六千万年前，土地由火山和地壳运动形成。其结果是丰富多样的土壤结构，从石头到粘土有超过50种土壤，其中三种土壤占主导地位：火山土壤，肥沃而富含矿物质；海洋土壤，由含有高浓度化石和营养素的海洋底部形成；冲积土，包含沉积物和由水与洪水形成的冲积层。凭借超过43,000英亩的葡萄园，纳帕谷葡萄酒以霞多丽和长相思等品种而著称。



Raymond Vineyards (Boisset Family Wines)

540 Zinfandel Lane, St Helena, CA www.raymondvineyards.com

雷蒙德酒庄

The modern and trendy wine estate, oozing with chic and fashionable charm, still roots itself in the spirit and tradition of "Old Napa Valley". Risen from a humble beginning in 1933, visionary founder, Roy Raymond Sr. has over the years built a legendary winery together with his wife Martha Jane Beringer whom he married. Together, they worked in every facet of the Beringer Winery. Came 1970 Roy Sr. together with two sons Walter and Roy Jr., decided that it was time to place their family name on the wine heritage in the Napa Valley. Raymond Vineyards' first vintage in 1974 was emblematic of the early Napa Valley harvests. With Raymond's family members working closely on every aspect of growing and crafting wines of excellence, the winery is today a unique and well visited destination inclusive of unforgettable wine experiences, dining sophistication, gourmet farming, great hospitality, and a state-of-the-art setting for highly creative and thematic events.

现代时尚的葡萄酒庄园，并根植于“老纳帕谷”的精神和传统。1933年，有远见的罗伊·雷蒙德与他的妻子玛莎·简·贝灵哲一起建立了一个传奇酒庄，他们全面负责酒庄的工作。1970年，罗伊·雷蒙德与他的两个儿子（Walter和Roy Jr.）决定以家族姓氏命名他们的葡萄酒遗产。1974年是雷蒙德酒庄的首个年份，也标志着早期纳帕谷的丰收。通过家族在种植和酿造优质葡萄酒上的合作，雷蒙德酒庄如今成为一个独特的旅游胜地，带来令人难忘的葡萄酒体验，更有精致餐饮、美食烹饪，提供一流的创意和主题活动。

