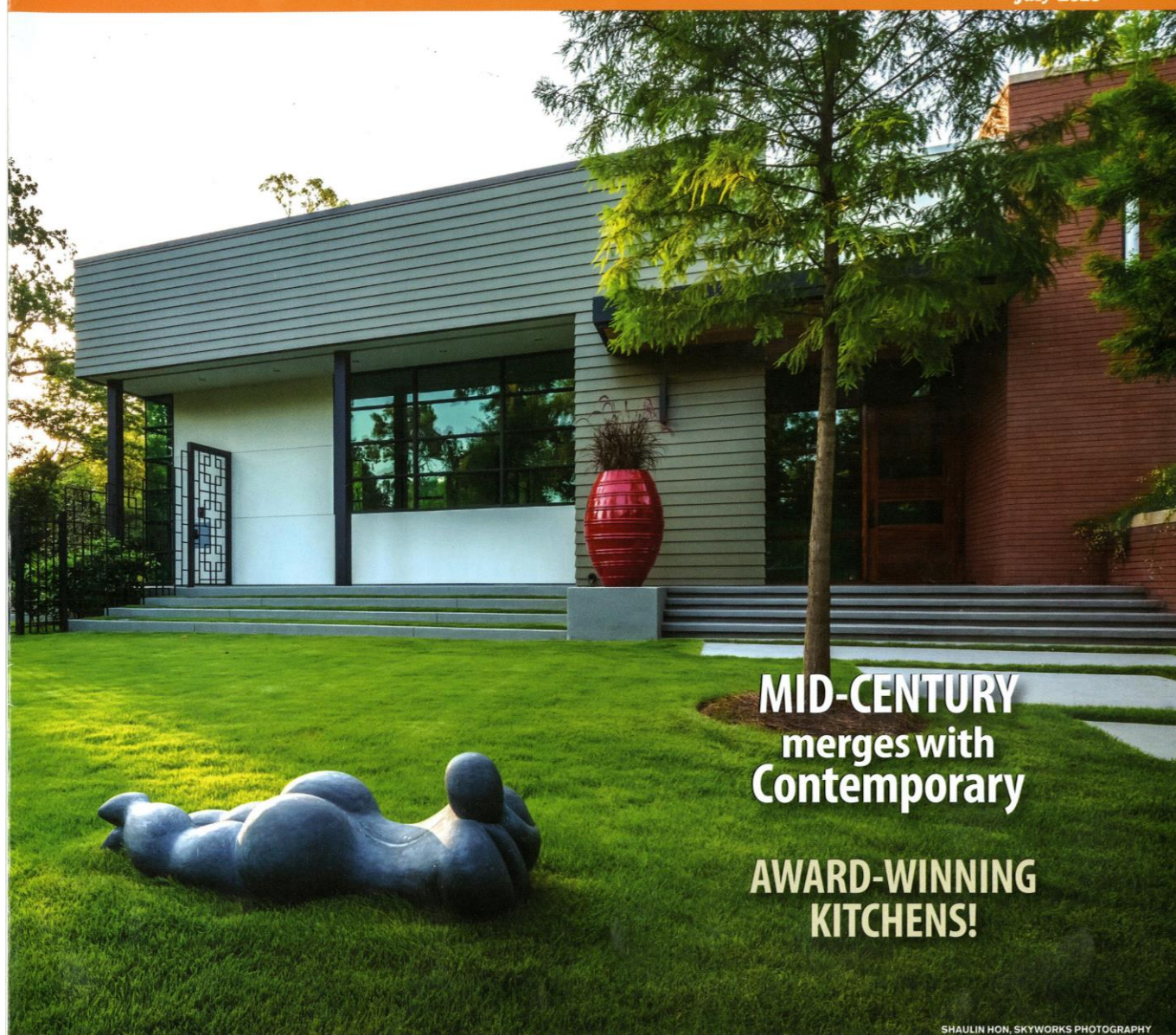


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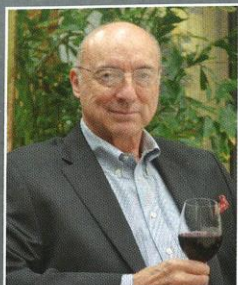
July 2016



MID-CENTURY
merges with
Contemporary

**AWARD-WINNING
KITCHENS!**

SHAULIN HON, SKYWORKS PHOTOGRAPHY



Denman Moody was the Editor and Publisher of *Moody's Wine Review* for six years and Contributing Editor on Rare Wine for *International Wine Review* in New York for six years. He has published or had published over 400 articles on wine, including *The International Wine and Food Society Journal* in London, *Revue du Vin de France* in Paris and *The Robb Report* in Malibu. He is or has been a member of The International Wine and Food Society, Confrerie Saint-Etienne d'Alsace, The German Wine Society, Commanderie de Bordeaux, Chaine des Rotisseurs, Les Amis d'Escoffier and The Knights of the Vine.

Touring Napa and Sonoma

A great visit highlighting great vintages

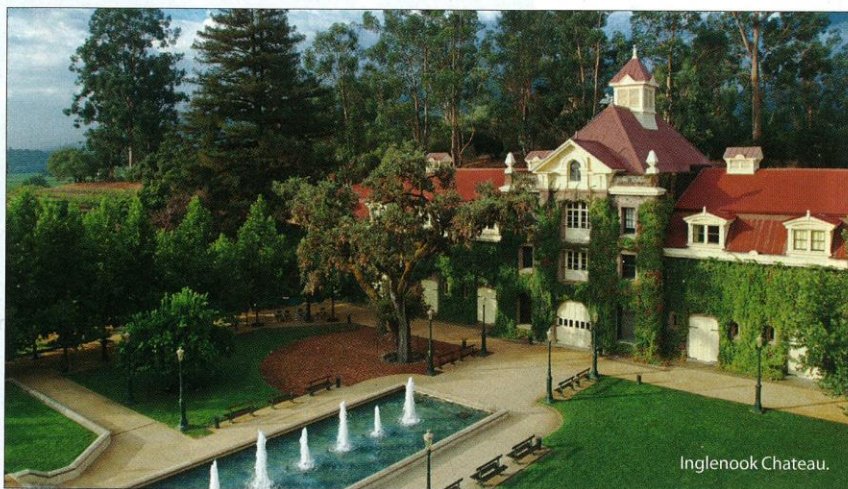
Visiting a winery in northern California used to consist of standing in a line at a tasting room, and being served, sometimes complimentary, by a middle-aged or older person who was doing it as a part-time hobby or for supplemental retirement income. For many wineries now, the scene has changed dramatically. For one thing, the wines in Sonoma and particularly Napa are so expensive, they can't afford to give them away, so a tasting charge is de rigueur. Let's start:

NAPA VALLEY

Inglenook — Some of the most acclaimed wines ever made in Napa Valley were the "cask" Cabernets from the '40s and '50s from Inglenook. Sadly, there were few connoisseurs and collectors around to garner kudos for them; therefore, Inglenook concentrated on and made its name with excellent jug wines — starter wines for many who are drinking great wines today!

In 1975, Francis Ford Coppola purchased the historic property — 1882 being Gustave Niebaum's first vintage at Inglenook — and started production of his flagship wine Rubicon in 1978.

For purposes of this article, a visit to Inglenook is totally different from one of even 15 years ago. The incredible structure, built in 1887 and restored in 1997, and the internal changes regarding visitor experiences are astounding, including tours of the building, the Infinity caves, the vineyards



Inglenook Chateau.

and options for seated tastings, and barrel tastings with or without seasonal, organic food pairings from winery chef Alex Lovick's kitchen. And the winemaker, Alex Bascaules, has a classy pedigree having been at Chateau Margaux for 21 years!

A final item of interest is that the tastings are led by five wine educators who have achieved level 2 certificates or above from the Court of Master Sommeliers. The tasting options range from \$45 to \$135 per person. Visit inglenook.com.

Raymond — Owned by the "King" of the wine country Jean-Charles Boisset (the "Queen" is his wife Gina Gallo), Raymond is a place to marvel and gush over! Incredible! raymondvineyards.com

Continuum — After Robert Mondavi sold

to Constellation Brands in 2004, he spent years planning with his daughter Marci and son Tim for a world-class winery, resulting in one of the most state-of-the-art wineries ever built, with gorgeous, scenic views to boot. The successful effort has yielded something to behold. Understated, but pure class. With the winery only recently completed, the 2013 vintage is the first complete estate effort. The Cabernet Sauvignon is \$200 a bottle, and in one of my rare scores, I give it a 98! Close to perfection. By appointment only. continuumestate.com

Spottswode — Mary Weber Novak moved to the Spottswode Estate in 1972 when the vineyard was 90 years old. As much as she loved it, she had very little idea what it would become — she likes to call it