

Terre de Vins

[Vinexpo] French Connection: Napa Valley French

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A pioneering California vineyard, Napa Valley has taken advantage of Vinexpo to highlight the French winegrowers who produce great Californian wines. With Jean-Charles Boisset and Yannick Rousseau, the French Connection tells.

Clear eyes, placed voice, bright blue jacket, Bourguignon Jean-Charles Boisset, a native of Vougeot and head of the empire JC Boisset in France, says in an English US 100% perfect, the epic of California Wine, the arrival of the Europeans and the establishment of the vineyard. The first vines were planted there in 1838 and the first commercial winery opened in 1861. In 1981, the Napa zone in the heart of California was the first AVA, American Viticultural Area, the equivalent of one European appellation. The recognition of a terroir in this dry Mediterranean climate.

Napa Green Land

While Napa Valley produces only 4% of California wines and 0.4% of the world's wines, Napa Valley stands out for its long-standing commitment to the environment. Nearly 90% of the vineyards are committed to a sustainable development program and 45% are certified "Napa Green Land", representing 82 million bottles per year. The 500 or so members of the Napa Winegrowers Association expect that all producers will have to be certified Napa Green Land by 2020.

A nod to Burgundy and its small estates, the Napa Valley estates are 95% family properties and over three-quarters of them produce less than 120,000 bottles a year. Nothing to do with the big brands.

Jean-Charles Boisset presented Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley's flagship grape variety: Domaine Raymond 2014, a powerful red with a velvety texture, the Elu vineyard of Saint-Supéry 2013 a rich red and warm Chanel property and a wine Of the estate Yannick Rousseau, another Frenchman, from the Gers and now pillar of Napa Valley. Its vintage Le roi soleil 2014, cabernet of the mountain area Mount Veeder is a more restrained style, with sober fruit and straight mouth. It also produces a Chardonnay that evokes Europe by its nuances.

