

WESTERN RESERVE WINES CLUB AUGUST 2025

Wine: Venge Silencieux Cabernet Sauvignon

Varietals: 91% Cabernet Sauvignon,
7% Cabernet Franc, 2% Merlot

Viticulture Area: Palisades Mountain range, Napa Valley

Bottle: \$59.99 | 6-Pack Case: \$323.95 plus tax



INTRODUCTION

Venge Vineyards is located in Calistoga, nestled in the **eastern foothills of the Palisades Mountain range**—part of the Vaca Mountains in Napa Valley. Their **estate property**, known as **Bone Ash Ranch**, includes approximately **12.5 acres** planted primarily to Cabernet Sauvignon. Pronounced (ven-ghee), our family has farmed *vitis vinifera* varieties in Napa Valley for over half a century. It is a classic, All-American journey that began when Knud Venge emigrated from Denmark to the United States in the early 1900's. Knud's son, Per Venge, found his passion in the wine and spirits industry and started Vencom Imports, focusing on the importation of Western European fine wines and spirits. It was Per's son, Nils Venge, who left the family business in the 1960's with a vision to study viticulture at UC Davis and establish the family name as an icon within the Napa Valley winegrowing community. Along the way, Nils would meet and marry the love of his life, Dianna Lynn Venge, known affectionately as Candy, who would convince her family to lend them the seed capital to start a winery within the newly budding, post-prohibition Northern California wine country. Farming and winemaking is in the blood of Owner and Winemaker, Kirk Venge, "When I was growing up, working in the vineyard and winery gave me a wonderful sense of partnership in my family's way of life; it was hard work, but I loved it." "If we don't get it right in the vineyard, we will never make great wine." - Kirk Venge

REGION

The Calistoga AVA is a Napa Valley Appellation located in the northern part of Napa County, California.

The Calistoga Appellation features volcanic soil and is known for its high diurnal variation, or the intraday change in temperatures from high to low during growing season.

- **Calistoga Palisades:** At the northern end of Napa Valley, the Palisades form a protective barrier for vineyards located in the valley and nearby canyons.
- **Wineries:** Palisades Canyon Wines, located in a canyon below the Calistoga Palisades, is an organic estate vineyard known for its Petite Sirah, Chenin Blanc, and Cabernet Sauvignon.
- **Grape characteristics:** The rugged terrain, volcanic soils, and distinct weather patterns of the canyons below the Palisades produce grapes with concentrated flavors and deep color.



Aging Regimen

60% New Air-Dried French Oak

Production | 5,500 Cases

PRODUCER

Nils and Dianna's viticultural roots sprouted in 1976 with the birth of their son, Kirk Venge, and the purchase of a 17-acre vineyard in the heart of Oakville, adjacent to Groth Vineyards. It was here that Saddleback Cellars was established, casting the family among the winemaking pioneers of Napa Valley.

Kirk Venge, gravitated to winemaking at an early age, working summers in the vineyards of the family estate, earning his degree in Viticulture & Oenology at UC Davis in 1999. He proved to be as talented a winemaker as his father, making wines in his own style, with a vision to build on the family legacy. In 2008, Kirk achieved his lifelong dream and acquired full ownership of Venge Vineyards. Today, Kirk continues our Napa Valley heritage, focusing on estate and select vineyard sites that produce fruit worthy of bearing the Venge family name.

RED WINE PRODUCTION ~ All Hands On Deck:

Hand sorting is a family tradition and a required harvest activity for all at Venge Vineyards.

Go With Gravity: Pellenc berry sorting system assures only ripened, healthy fruit makes it into the tanks.

Chill: In the tank, we cold soak the must and free-run juice to gently extract additional flavor and color pigments from the skins.

Go Native: Combination of cultured and wild yeasts for primary and secondary fermentation is standard doctrine.

Barrel Down: Combination of new and once-used French oak barrels are used for red wine aging.

Bottle As Is: Natural is better. Therefore, our red wines are bottled unfiltered and unfined.

Tasting Notes:

"Wonderfully aromatic and expressive, this wine opens with scents of sweet cassis, anise, blackberries, roasted coffee, blue herbs and barrel vanillin. On the palate, the tannins are firm, upfront and balanced throughout, with all pockets of the mouth left yearning for another sip. Full-bodied and extracted with ripe black fruit, blueberries, charred caramel and a delightful hint of fresh herbs that concentrate into a lengthy finish. This wine is approachable upon release and cellar worthy in proper aging conditions." -Winery Notes

Food Suggestions:

Pairs well with robust, rich foods that can match its full-bodied profile and high tannins, such as grilled steak, braised short ribs, lamb, and aged cheeses like cheddar or Gouda. Hearty vegetarian options, such as mushroom risotto, lentil stew, or dishes with umami-rich mushrooms, also complement the wine. For a sweet pairing, consider semi-sweet chocolate desserts, which can balance the wine's fruit and spice notes.

Remember We Taste The Bad Ones So you don't have to! CHEERS!!!

Sources:

napavintners.com/napa_valley/geography.asp
vengevineyards.com

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