

# For planning a trip or remembering it, 'The California Directory of Fine Wineries' is a fine companion

By **SASHA PAULSEN**

*Inside Napa Valley Editor*

"Whether you are a visitor or a native seeking the ultimate chalice of nectar from grapes, navigating California's wine country can be intimidating."

It's a mild understatement from Tom Silberkleit, and a challenge that the editor and publisher takes on in "The California Directory of Fine Wineries" (Wine House Press).

Working with writer Marty Olmstead and photographer Robert Holmes, Silberkleit has just brought out the fourth edition of this traveling companion for wine country.

This team has done the groundwork for visiting: From the hundreds of wineries in Napa, Sonoma and Mendocino — "from glamorous estates to converted barns, from nationally recognized labels to hidden gems" — they have chosen 69 to put in the spotlight in their elegant, hardbound guide, richly illustrated with Holmes' photos, but packed as well, with practical and up-to-date information about their choices.

Each winery gets a compact one-page description of just what

makes it special, reinforced by the book's dazzling photos, and a sidebar column provides the nuts and bolts information: contact information, owners, location, appellation, wines, winemaker, visiting hours, tastings fees, tours, production numbers and even nearby attractions.

For the Napa Valley, the wineries range from Anderson's Conn Valley Vineyards to ZD Wines on Silverado Trail, from newer entries to the Napa wine world, like Bennett Lane Winery in Calistoga, to some of the most venerable, like St. Helena's historic Beringer; from the unpretentious Failla winery where visitors taste wines in a farmhouse that has the look of an old hunting lodge, to the grand replication of a French chateau that houses Domaine Carneros.

Visual, informative and filled with interesting anecdotes, it's an ideal book to peruse before setting out on a wine country exploration; and it's so handsome, it's an ideal memento of the adventure, once it's over, and the wine is gone.

For more information, contact Wine House Press, 127 East Napa St., Suite F, Sonoma, CA, 95476. ●