

SPECIAL HOLLYWOOD BOWL 2021 EDITION

# performances

MAGAZINE



# THE BOWL IS BACK!

*Summer Sparkles with Stars as Live Music and Audiences Return*

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# OF WINE, *ART*, and LANDSCAPE

The sculpture collection at the Donum Estate in Sonoma County *By* BENJAMIN EPSTEIN

THE BREEZE IN the Carneros wine region of Northern California begins gently, strengthens with the day and subsides by evening, cooling the grapes for which the appellation is known. Los Angeles-based artist Doug Aitken incorporates the phenomenon in an ethereal site-specific stainless-steel work at the Donum Estate in Sonoma County.

Installed in a eucalyptus grove, 45 feet across, the commissioned *Sonic Mountain* (2019) uses 365 chimes of differing lengths, one for each day of the year, arranged in three concentric circles. Aitken collaborated with composer Terry Riley to conceive frequencies for the chimes that, with the wind,

would produce a chance music.

And that is just one of more than 40 enormous works that dot the property.

Most are figurative sculptures. All are from the collection of Donum owners Allan Warburg, also co-founder and co-CEO of a behemoth clothing retailer in China, and his wife, Mei. Their goal was to combine wine, art, and landscape.

They succeeded. Monumentally.

The ranch and stunning art—by the likes of Ghada Amer, Lynda Benglis, and Keith Haring—occupy 200 acres. Donum began placing the sculptures in 2014; the collection officially launched in 2018.

Winemaker Dan Fishman produces only

single-vineyard estate wines; in addition to its Carneros vintages, the Donum portfolio includes hand-harvested pinot noir and chardonnay from Russian River Valley and Anderson Valley.

Ai Weiwei, whose exhibition *Trace* is at L.A.'s Skirball Cultural Center through Aug. 1, designs many of the labels.

Weiwei's prominently displayed bronze *Circle of Animals/Zodiac Heads* (2011) is the artist's personal interpretation of 18th-century Chinese animal heads that represent the 12 signs of the zodiac. In 2016, Donum commissioned Weiwei to create labels for its wines that would pair the vintage year with its corresponding zodiac sign.





Clockwise from left: Carneros vineyards at Donum, Latin for “gift of the land.” Tastings at newly imagined Donum House look out onto the property. Doug Aitken’s *Sonic Mountain* (2019) uses the wind to produce an ethereal inharmonic music. Ai Weiwei’s prominently displayed bronze *Circle of Animals/Zodiac Heads* (2011) inspires Donum labels.

