

AUTUMN 2020 ISSUE 22

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DEFINING THE LUXURY EXPERIENCE

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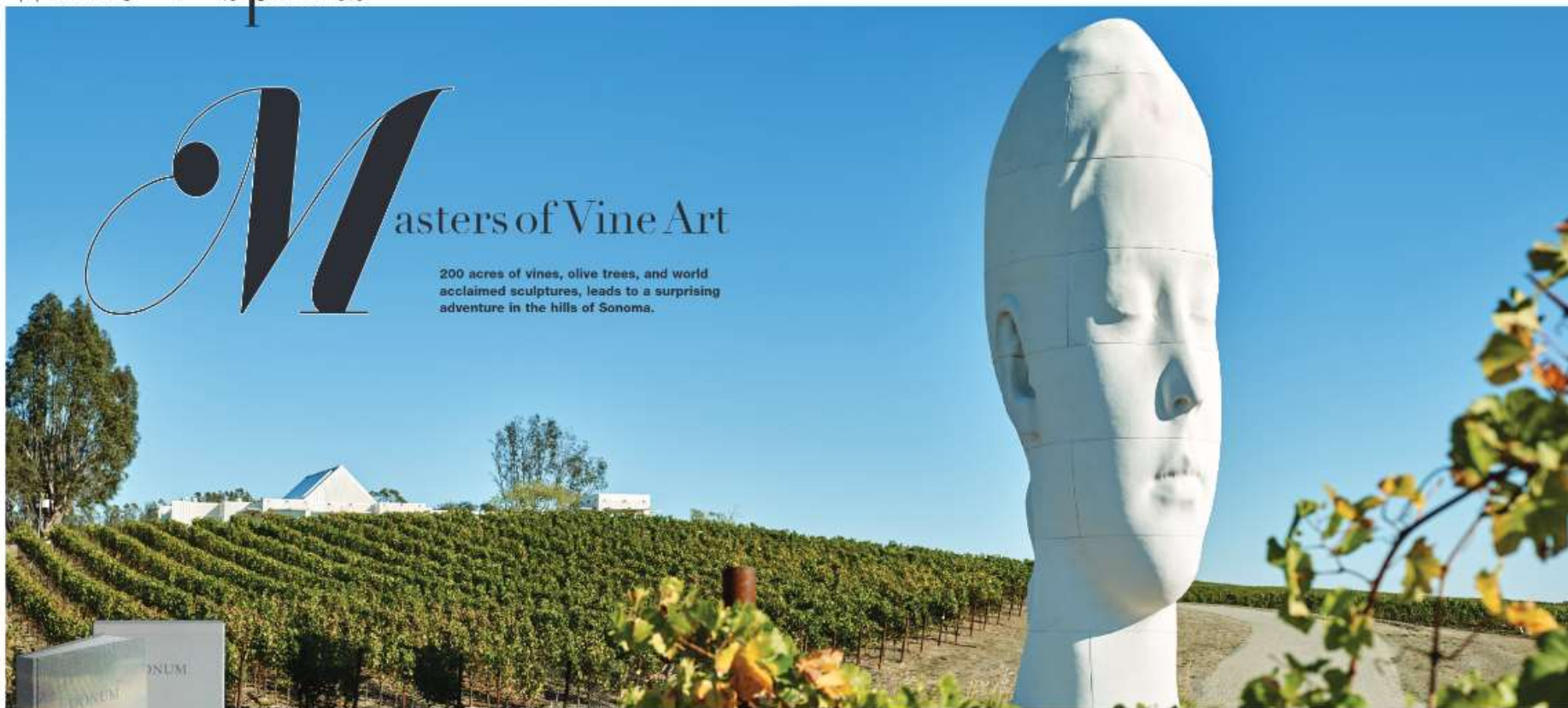
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PHOTOS: ERIK CARROLL & MCKINLEY

Masters of Vine Art

200 acres of vines, olive trees, and world acclaimed sculptures, leads to a surprising adventure in the hills of Sonoma.



Above: Jaume Plensa's stunning larger-than-life sculpture Sanna 2015 towers over the vines within view of the visitors center. Left: The Donum Estate's Collection Book *Gift of the Land* sets the stage for its impressive 100-piece art collection including important works by Haring, Warhol, Dali and Miro.

INSPIRED BY PASSION AND DESIGNED BY THE PURSUIT OF PERFECTION, SONOMA'S DONUM ESTATE IS MUCH AN ACCLAIMED ALERISCO SCULPTURE GALLERY AS IT IS ONE OF THE REGION'S LEADING PRODUCERS OF PINOT NOIR, and it's this marriage of art and wine that makes it such an intriguing destination.

Set against the undulating hills of Sonoma's Mayacamas range, The Donum Estate is a winery with a difference. Interspersed throughout 200 acres of verdant vines and 150-year-old olive trees, as if deposited by an interdimensional portal, a collection of 40 thought-provoking sculptures catch the traversing



Californian sunshine. There is a towering, ethereal bust by Jaume Plensa, ranks of contemporary Terracotta warriors by Beijing-based artist Yue Minjun; and the hulking shape of a 20th century fighter jet based on one owned by artist Anselm Kiefer. The sculpture collection continues indoors, where a crouching spider by Louise Bourgeois large enough to fill an entire room promises to have arachnophobics running for the doors.

However, if you can overcome your fears, you'll be rewarded, not just with modern art but with a kaleidoscope of

experiences and interactions envisioned by Hong Kong-based owner Allan Warburg and his wife Mei, and CEO Angelica de Vere Mabray. Chief among these is the estate's coveted wine, Burgundy-styled pinot noirs and chardonnays that can be tasted during private, appointment-only sessions set within Donum Home, an airy, contemporary farmhouse by San Francisco-based architect Matt Hollis.

The estate winery was established in 2019 to create the ultimate pinot noir and does so with grapes grown on

PHOTO © DONUM ESTATE



PHOTOS © ROBERT BEIRO



Top: The Tasting Room at the Donum Estate. Contact thedonumestate.com to book a visit; Donum's wine labels feature the art from the estate's sculpture *Zodiac Heads* (2011) by Ai Weiwei. Above left: Louise Bourgeois' *Crouching Spider* (2003) is a gigantic sculpture of bronze and stainless steel legs on display within the pavillion; Above right: Yayoi Kusama, *Pumpkin* (2014) features prominently on the pavillion fountain.

Donum's original vines, as well as those of three other estates, following a vinicultural philosophy that works with nature, not against it. The result is a pinot noir-heavy range of additive-free terroir-expressive, single-vineyard wines crafted by winemaker Dan Fishman that are regularly snapped up by collectors.

To embrace the estate's many facets, take the 120-minute Explore Experience, which includes a walking tour of the art collection (chardonnay in hand, naturally), Kicking Bull,

a working farm, and the expansive lavender fields, and ends with a guided, alfresco tasting of Donum's Reserve, Single-Block and Library wines, paired with produce from the estate's biodynamic gardens, its olive groves and its bee hives

Capturing the beauty, philosophies and diversity of the estate experience is Donum – Gift of the Land, a new hardback publication that commemorates the first year of the Donum collection and celebrates the artists, artisans and craftsmen that have led the property to global acclaim. 🌿