

DONUM Sotheby's

The best of wines, whiskies and beyond THE ART OF DRINK

THE DONUM ESTATE REOPENS

A DELIGHTFUL PAIRING

Contemporary art is dotted around the grounds of this great winemaking estate in California

In a world that demands new ways of thinking about how we engage with art and culture, the Donum Estate provides a tantalising opportunity. Established in 2001 and taken over by collectors Mei and Allan Warburg 10 years later, it brings together the finest of wines with works by leading international artists such as Ai Weiwei, Anselm Kiefer and Keith Haring, all set within 200 acres of bucolic land in Sonoma, California.

"It might seem unusual, but to us, it makes complete sense," say the Warburgs, who since 2015 have placed more than 35 works in the landscape. "To experience the art and wine while walking the land – when you bring each of these elements together something special happens. Not always does one plus one equal two."

Ai Weiwei's *Circle of Animals / Zodiac Head*, 2011, Lynda Benglis's tinted-polyurethane fountain *Pink Ladies*, 2014, and Subodh Gupta's 10-metre-high



stainless-steel *People Tree*, laden with kitchen utensils, 2017, are among the works located across the sloping hillsides. A new special commission by Doug Aitken is "a giant wind chime" located in a eucalyptus grove.

Equally diverse and alluring is the wine, farmed with low yields and "using organic and biodynamic farming to capture the energy and essence of the land", the Warburgs

say. Sommeliers even have wine and art "pairings" to suggest, such as Zhan Wang's *Artificial Rock*, 2007–13, with a Chardonnay.

The Donum Estate, Sonoma, California is set to reopen to the public in September. A book dedicated to the estate, its art, wine and associated artists, *Gift of the Land* (Art Book Publishing Ltd), was recently released –ALEXANDER MORRISON

(Clockwise from above) Subodh Gupta, *People Tree*, 2017; The Macallan 72 Years Old in Lalique – The Genesis Decanter; and The Macallan Bar

Artisans in an ancient land



When a bottle of 60-year-old The Macallan sold for a record £1.5 million at Sotheby's last year, it was a reminder of the unrivalled experience of these master distillers. So when their £140 million Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners-designed distillery in Speyside, Scotland, reopens to visitors this autumn, there will be plenty for whisky-lovers to be excited about.

The building, unveiled in 2018, is "cut into the slope of the land, taking its cues from ancient Scottish hills", explains The Macallan managing director Igor Boyadjian. Those who visit learn how The Macallan



whiskies are made, in sherry-seasoned casks and signature, "curiously small" copper stills. They can also savour more than 100 expressions at The Macallan

Bar, including The Macallan 72 Years Old in Lalique – The Genesis Decanter, the oldest expression of their single malt and a "collaboration of masters from across the fields of whisky, crystal, architecture, construction and craftsmanship".

Boyadjian adds. Visitors will discover afresh The Macallan's connection with local natural resources, which "continue to be vital to the production of our single malt".

The Macallan Distillery and Visitor Experience is due to reopen to visitors in September –AM

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Sotheby's Magazine

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A delightful pairing by Alexander Morrison

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