

CANVASSING WINE COUNTRY

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ART IN WINE COUNTRY'S NATURAL OUTDOOR GALLERY

By Rebekah Stoltz Weeman

With intermittently mild winter days in wine country, now is the time to step outside and be inspired by the beautiful local landscape while the elements are often bright, cool and refreshing. Northern California's wine country is small in comparison to the rest of the world, and represents a special niche. Just 58 miles north of San Francisco, it is well-known that the counties of Napa and Sonoma boast world-class wine, gastronomical dining and luxury accommodations. A more recent wine country development, is a vast array of large-scale art.

Art is the true expression of our times, our lives and the way we live. Not always meant to be taken too seriously, art can be an expression of humor, politics, love or many other emotions. Art provides space to pause and ponder. If a piece of work has done its job – to provoke or inspire us – we may find ourselves engaged in conversation with another.

What better setting is there for outdoor art than the grounds of a vineyard estate? In wine country there are many places to observe art in its outdoor form. While there are many wineries that feature outdoor art installations, here are a few that are both popular with locals and that top our list.

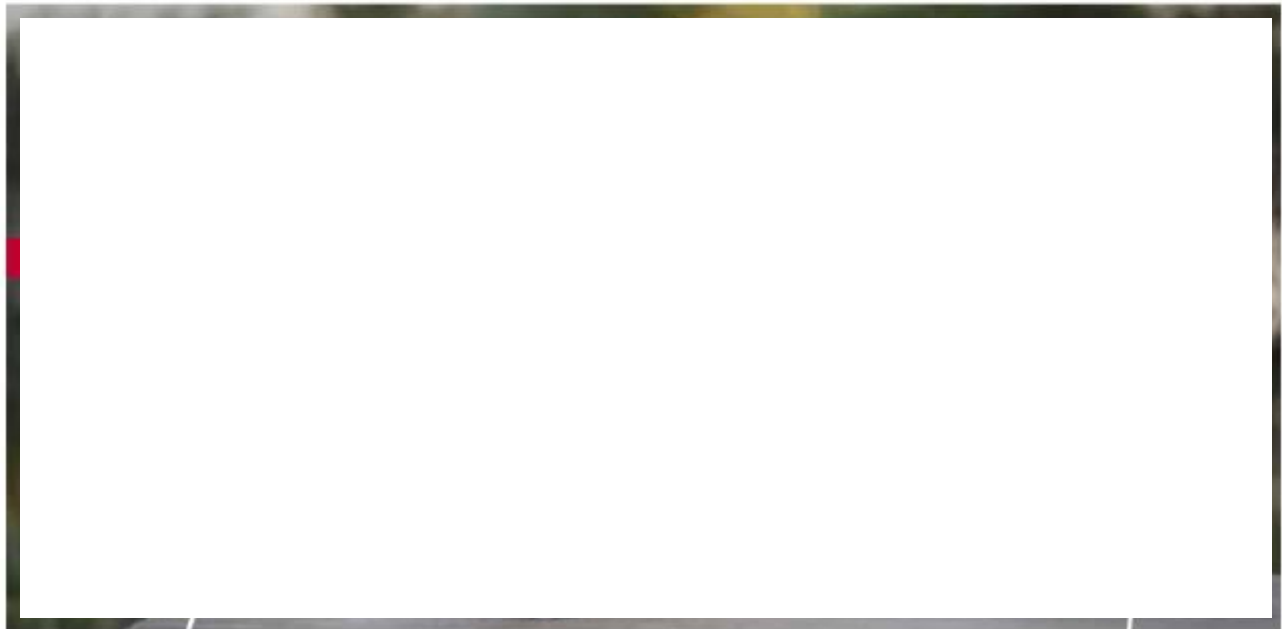
Donum Estate is an absolute artistic gem. The small-production boutique wines are complex, yet easy on the palate. With a glass in hand, you can tour through the expansive sculpture gardens by foot or fancy four-wheeled vehicle. Situated in the Carneros region of southeastern Sonoma the air is crisp, clean and perfect for strolling, while sipping some of the finest Burgundian Pinot Noir made in California. Avid art collectors and owners, Mei and Allen Warburg, share a passion for wine and art. As a result they have travelled the world extensively and spared no expense to bring significant pieces to the Donum Estate.



Donum Estate

Since 2015, Donum has been placing large-scale contemporary sculptures in the midst of its vineyard landscape, interspersed with 150-year-old olive trees and an organic farm. At present, these include around 40 works by artists from across the globe, including Ai Weiwei, Yayoi Kusama, Louise Bourgeois, Keith Haring, Zhan Wang, Elmgreen & Dragset, Yue Minjun, Jaume Plensa, Subodh Gupta, Danh Vo, Richard Hudson and Tracey Emin, among many others. The collection continues to grow, with new additions such as a specially-commissioned monumental sculpture by Anselm Kiefer, as well as work by Mark Manders, Wim Delvoye and new sculptures by Subodh Gupta and Marc Quinn. While touring the property, there is no doubt that visitors have encountered something very unique and special. The art is situated on the property to compliment the landscape and enhance the flow of energy generated by the powerful sculptures.

A Danish businessman based in Hong Kong and China, Alan Warburg is a passionate collector of art and wine who believes that both can help connect people across cultures. "The sculpture collection is very personal, representing what my wife and I believe fits the landscape and feeling of Donum," says Warburg. "We try to make the collection as global as possible. I am a European who has lived over half my life in Asia, I am married to a Chinese woman, and now I also produce wine in California. I love and embrace diversity and different cultures and hope the collection will express this." Committed in every way to creating a lasting impression through wine and art, Warburg states, "I believe that one plus one is not always two." He added that, "If you take art, put it into a beautiful landscape and at the same time enjoy it with a glass of great wine, the experience is much larger than if the three are enjoyed separately. The whole is more than the sum of its parts."



Richard Hudson - Love Me 2016



Louise Bourgeois - Crouching Spider 2003



Jaume Plensa - Sanna 2015