

# DONUM

GIFT OF THE LAND

## The Donum Estate commissions David Thulstrup to transform Donum Home



*Portrait of David Thulstrup*



*© The Donum Estate*

SONOMA, California (11 November 2020): [The Donum Estate](#), the award-winning Pinot Noir producer featuring a monumental sculpture collection located in the acclaimed wine region of Sonoma County, has commissioned award-winning Danish architect and designer David Thulstrup to transform Donum Home. Construction will commence immediately and is due to complete in April 2021.

Thulstrup's design concept will draw on the outstanding natural Californian landscapes and his Scandinavian heritage, to reconfigure Donum Home into a warm and welcoming space for wine tasting, dining and entertaining. The concept revolves around simple and calm architectural interventions, with intentionally paired-back design decisions which allows the art collection and wine tasting to speak for itself. The overall design language draws from Scandinavian values such as simplicity, functionalism, and sense of calmness, while giving a nod to the Californian vernacular through natural materiality, using American walnut and Californian granite.

Three tasting rooms will be added to make a total of five to take advantage of the south facing building towards rolling hills of southern Sonoma rested beneath the waters of San Pablo Bay. In addition to the transformation, a range of custom furniture pieces will enable coherence between objects and space, fostering a sense of holism from the inside-out.

The 200-acre Estate is home to over 40 major works from 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, Doug Aitken and Tracey Emin, among others.

This new commission marks the continued commitment of Donum's philosophy of bringing together fine wine, art, sustainable farming, design and architecture. It was further augmented

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last year with Doug Aitken's *Sonic Mountain (Sonoma)*, situated within Donum's lush eucalyptus grove and the accompanying musical composition created by multimedia artist Hisham Akira Bharoocha and Subodh Gupta's *People Tree*, a striking 10-meter high stainless-steel banyan tree with utensils as leaves, following its unital display at La Monnaie de Paris.

*It is delightful to work with David on this project. His Danish heritage underpins his design approach and it perfectly weaves into what we want to achieve at Donum – a holistic experience at the intersection of fine wine, sustainable farming, art, design and architecture. The Scandinavian design principles of simplicity marries the beautiful Sonoma landscapes, creating a sensational surrounding where one can enjoy our wines, collection and experience high-quality architectural design; while all at the same time feeling like they are at home.* Said Mei and Allan Warburg, Owners of The Donum Estate.

*The Donum Estate captures a rare trifecta: beautiful landscapes, art, and wine. It is perfect foundation for my work, that puts materiality, holism, and functionality in focus. To bring these existing elements to life, all architectural interventions encourage simplicity and lightness through the application of an honest design language. That way, the space takes on a calm and understated character, while putting the wine tasting experience in focus. After all, the crossover between hospitality and creating a sense of home is what I am passionate about.* Commented David Thulstrup.

*For the past two decades, our passionate Donum team has been committed to our mission of producing the finest Pinot Noir in California. During this time we've witnessed a natural progression as The Donum Estate has brought to life this delicate balance among wine, land and art that has made it an international destination. For guests to come walk the land, drink the wine and see our art collection – the experience we offer is a cultural pilgrimage. As there is heightened demand in visitation from new and diverse audiences, this transformation will respond to that demand and enhance what we can offer even more so than today.* Added Angelica de Vere Mabray, Donum Chief Executive Officer.

With its familiarity and sense of home, Donum Home, holds part of the Donum Collection. During construction, artworks including Yue Minjun (China, 1962), Liu Xiaodong (China, 1963) and Tracey Emin (British, 1963) will be temporarily placed in storage. In the New Year, Donum will welcome a number of new works and commissions into the collection and existing art works will be rehung at the Donum Home to complete its transformation.

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For more information and to book a tour please visit [www.thedonumestate.com](http://www.thedonumestate.com)

Follow us on Instagram [@DonumEstate](https://www.instagram.com/DonumEstate) and join our conversation #TheDonumEstate

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## Notes to editors

For media enquiries, please contact:

Brunswick Arts  
Damian Chandler  
+852 9661 7660  
[thedonumestate@brunswickgroup.com](mailto:thedonumestate@brunswickgroup.com)

Studio David Thulstrup  
Monique Schröder  
+45 33118076  
[msc@studiodavidthulstrup.com](mailto:msc@studiodavidthulstrup.com)

Click this [link](#) to access the electronic press kit, images and videos.

## About The Donum Estate

Donum is a leader in single-vineyard, single-appellation Pinot Noir and Chardonnay from Northern California. Celebrating its 20th vintage this year, Donum's terroir-driven wines reflect the energy and complexity of some of the most celebrated regions in Northern California including the Russian River Valley, Carneros and Anderson Valley. Founded in 2001, the Donum Estate is located in the acclaimed wine region Carneros nestled between Napa and Sonoma Counties. Donum includes a state-of-the-art winemaking facility, an organic farm, contemporary hospitality experience and one of the largest accessible private sculpture collections in the world. More than 40 monumental, open-air sculptures live harmoniously among the Donum Estate landscape and vineyards. Dotted throughout, each piece plays with scale, nature, and imagination. This evolving collection brings together a global community of artists, including works from leading practitioners from 18 nations, across six continents including Ai Weiwei, Ghada Amer, Doug Aitken, Lynda Benglis, Louise Bourgeois, Keith Haring and Subodh Gupta. Donum brings to life a delicate balance among wine, land and art that has made it an international destination. For the past two decades, sustainability has been at the forefront of the Donum Estate vision—Donum, in fact, is Latin for Gift of the land. Its biodynamic and organic farming practices create environments in which the vines can thrive and produce the highest-quality fruit as possible. Learn more at <https://www.thedonumestate.com>

## About David Thulstrup

David Thulstrup is an award-winning architect and designer whose refined and holistic approach to architecture, interiors and product design combines his Scandinavian heritage with a modern design language.

As the founder and creative director of Studio David Thulstrup, David has completed an extensive portfolio worldwide ranging from residential architecture to restaurants, retail, hotels, furniture and lighting. His interior of Noma restaurant in Copenhagen, as well as winning multiple awards, set a design benchmark, melding elegant craft and comfort with a strong sense of place, or stedsans as it is expressed in Danish.

David's practice is grounded upon enduring Scandinavian values of honesty and humanism with a particular emphasis on materiality. A central tenet is a concern for how people feel. By taking a holistic approach to each aspect of a project David creates spaces where people are comfortable and embraced by their surroundings. Pivotal to this, is a deep understanding of how a space will be used or lived in. Designing that space from the inside out, David considers light, color, form and materials as architectural elements.

Describing his style as 'modern simplicity', David creates pared-back designs that feel current but will stand the test of time. This requires meticulous attention to detail, curiosity and ambition. Using diverse materials in an honest and thoughtful way is central as is functionality and tactility. To achieve a harmonious interplay between the architecture and the elements within, he often creates custom furniture and lighting.

David holds a Masters in Interior Architecture from the Danish Design School and is an Architect MAA and member of the Danish Association of Architects. Before founding the studio in 2009, David worked on residential, commercial and institutional projects for Jean Nouvel in Paris and on luxury retail projects for Peter Marino in New York. Today he works with a culturally diverse team of architects, interior designers, product designers and material experts, in a naturally-lit industrial space in Copenhagen.

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## Image Gallery



Donum Home, prior to construction



The Donum Estate



Zhan Wang, Artificial Rock No. 126, 2007–13 at  
The Donum Estate