

The New Napa

The famed region's renaissance is being fueled by a young and adventurous band of visionaries.

BY ADAM STRUM



At the heart of every legendary winemaking region, whether it's **Burgundy** or **Rioja**, **Barolo** or **Napa**, is legacy and tradition. Decades and, in some cases, centuries of triumphs and trials have resulted in some of the most interesting and

elegant wines in the world, and approaches that stand the test of time.

But it's dangerous to rest too heavily on laurels or family registers. Change is not only inevitable, but necessary. The wine world is fast-paced, demanding and thirsty for the new. And who better to refresh tradition than emerging young winemakers and visionaries in these regions?

Napa's new guard is the focus of Contributing Editor Virginie Boone's feature this month. From Jennifer Williams and Mark Porembski of Zeitgeist Cellars to Matthew Iaconis of Brick &

Mortar, this vibrant facet of America's most famous wine region is tackling new varieties, styles and approaches to create some of the most exciting and surprising wines in the country. We tell you who to watch, what to drink and where to visit.

Also in Napa, the Stags Leap District, the storied AVA made famous by Warren Winiarski and the 1976 Judgment of Paris tasting, is taking a new look at established varieties like Cabernet through the eyes of winemakers such as Chimney Rock's Elizabeth Vianna and Pine Ridge Vineyard's Michael Beaulac. Boone examines the past and present of this legendary region and tells you what to drink now.

The distinctive, independent spirit of **Catalonian wines**, with 10 denominated wine regions focusing on Mediterranean grape varieties, is explored by Contributing Editor Michael Schachner this month. Full bodied, expressive and complex, these are some of Spain's most magical pours.

Also in the issue: Seafood pairings made simple, an interview with foodie and famed fashion designer Zac Posen and **fantastic photos from our annual Wine Star Awards event**, held in March.