

# Wine Spectator

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## COMFORT ZONE

CHARDONNAY REMAINS PREEMINENT IN CALIFORNIA, AS GREATER DIVERSITY DRIVES HIGHER QUALITY

BY JAMES LAUBE

TO hear California vintners tell it, not only is the su-



# WENTE®

VINEYARDS

*Wente makes the wines for his family's historic estate in Livermore Valley; at 135 years old, it's one of the Golden State's oldest wineries and a Chardonnay pioneer. The grape's most popular clone was even named after the family for its role in developing this wine. Roughly 80 percent of Chardonnay grapes are derived from Wente clones.*

*"I believe that it is key that wines and labels have a consistency from year to year so that consumers know what to expect," Wente says, adding that most winemakers understand the market and provide consumers with a range of options. "I don't think there's such a thing as too many styles so long as the wines are well-made and fairly priced."*



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