

St. Clement Vineyards

WINE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PART OF DANIELLE Cyrot's life, but she never imagined it would be her career. Having grown up with a French father and yearly trips to Paris, Cyrot was aware of the wine-making history of her family. Her great-grandfather was the last in a long line of ancestors who owned the Cyrot vineyard in Burgundy's prestigious Côte de Beaune. Cyrot had no intention of following the path when she enrolled at the University of California at Davis, but everything changed when she took an introductory wine-making class.

Since Cyrot arrived at St. Clement (www.stclement.com), she has been recognized with the Best Of Local Winemaker

award for the second year in a row by *Napa and Sonoma Valleys* magazine. Drawing on her travels Alsace and South Australia as well as her experience in the Napa Valley, Cyrot appreciates the philosophy that wine is created in the vineyard, but she also monitors her cellar carefully. Her wines are elegantly structured with refined tannins and balanced components. Always true to herself, Cyrot's wines are an expression of her and what she likes in a glass of wine. As a result, St. Clement Vineyards has also been voted the Best Boutique Winery two years in a row by *Napa and Sonoma Valleys* magazine.

The diverse land of Napa Valley is what inspires Cyrot's approach to wine-making. From floral Sauvignon Blanc to luscious Chardonnay, St.

Clement white wines are clean, crisp, and varietally-correct, without a lot of what Cyrot calls artificial "stuffing." She is a minimalist and doesn't augment her wines with excessive oak or other techniques that might hide their pretty fruit character. "I'm there to help the wine fully express itself," she says.

St. Clement red wines are vineyard-driven, with distinctive fruit character, varietal integrity, and firm, elegant tannins. The complexity in the wines arises from the years of work Cyrot put into nurturing vital grower relationships with some of the top vineyards in Napa Valley sub-appellations including Diamond Mountain, Howell Mountain, Mount Veeder, Rutherford, and Spring Mountain. This diverse set of AVAs represents half of the Napa Valley's 33 different soil series and 100 different

soil variations. The result is a wonderful collaboration and a diverse palate of flavors and tannin structures available to Cyrot, allowing her to create wines with exceptional depth and complexity.

St. Clement's portfolio of stunning Napa



Valley wines is anchored by the flagship Oropas Cabernet Sauvignon. The first vintage of Oropas was made in 1991, and over the years, it has become a style icon for St. Clement – a rich, opulent Bordeaux-style blend that emphasizes concentration, depth, and velvety tannins. The key to Oropas is having a palate of consistent flavor profiles and tannin structures to work with, largely a tribute to her growers.

A small boutique winery located in the heart of Napa Valley, St. Clement is a must stop for any visit to the region. The St. Clement philosophy rests on eliminating the pretense of wine and focusing on taste. ●



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St. Clement Rosenbaum House (left); Danielle Cyrot (above)