

**Slow Wine: A Year in the Life of the Vineyards and Wines of the USA**

USA Slow Wine Guide 2025

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**Baldacci Family Vineyards**

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**PEOPLE** - Real estate developer Thomas and wife Brenda Baldacci purchased their 29-acre Stags Leap District property in 1998 and later bought two more vineyards. Their son Michael Baldacci came aboard in 2012 and was promoted to winemaker in 2018. Their diverse vineyard locations enable them to make everything from Chardonnay and Pinot Noir to Cabernet and even an estate-grown Brut sparkling wine.

**VINEYARDS** - They have three Napa Valley vineyards, each in a different region—Stags Leap District, Calistoga and Carneros—ranging from the southernmost part of Napa to the northernmost, with a mountain site as well. They certified the Stags Leap site organic in 2024 and use only organically approved materials on their 17-acre Stella Knight vineyard in Calistoga (partially in the Diamond Mountain region) and their 23-acre Honey B Vineyard in the Carneros (Chardonnay and Pinot Noir).

**WINES** - Classically styled wines, predominantly Cabernet Sauvignon, approachable in their youth, yet maintaining complexity and stamina to age.

**Stags Leap District Black Label Cabernet Sauvignon 2021** • 1,042 cases; \$125 - Aged 22 months in French oak (75% new). Highlights the appellation, with the classic aromas of mint and chocolate and the velvet-gloved, blue-fruit palate and subtle yet focused finish.



**Calistoga Stella Knight Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 2021** • 725 cases; \$125 - Aged 22 months in French oak(75% new). Calistoga site is cooler than their others, shade from trees at the base of Diamond Mountain. Aromas of dark chocolate, walnut, and spice, with a concentrated midpalate. This wine is full bodied and textural, yet velvety.

**Diamond Mountain District Cabernet Sauvignon 2021** • 94 cases; \$175 - From seven rows that arc through Diamond Mountain appellation. The oak profile is heavier, with more depth to the finish and chalky tannins. Built to age.

**Acres** 45 - cases 14,000

**Fertilizers** - organic fertilizer

**Plant protection** - organic

**Grapes purchased** - 15%

**Certification** - some of the vineyards are certified organic

**Weed control** - animal grazing, mechanical, manual

**Yeasts** - spontaneous fermentation, commercial cultured yeasts



**BOTTLE** Symbol awarded to wineries whose bottles represented excellent average quality at our tastings.

**TOP WINE**



The finest bottles from a sensory point of view.

