

12-FOOT-HIGH RECLAIMED WOOD DOORS OPEN TO THE LOFTY FERMENTATION HALL.



2017

Wine Country Awards

SINEGAL ESTATE  
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WINERY  
ARCHITECTURE



**S**INEGAL ESTATE WINERY is a compelling example of how a nondescript building can be completely rejuvenated. What was once an ivy-covered barn is now a handsome hospitality center and production facility, reflecting the high-end wines being produced here. Rising young firm Signum Architects, which also designed Cade and Hall wineries, was responsible for the deft transformation. “We gave a soul to the building,” says Signum principal Juancarlos Fernandez.

Located on the site of the historic Inglewood estate in St. Helena, the 30-acre property had an existing winery. Built in the 1980s, the barn-like structure had stone masonry walls and a steeply pitched roof. To give it a contemporary identity, the design team covered the façade in gray cement-fiber panels and horizontal cedar slats and added an elegant modern trellis

of steel and cedar. The architects also created a small adjoining wing containing the VIP tasting area and excavated 4,500 square feet of wine caves.

Of particular note are the interiors, which were designed to heighten the drama of winemaking: The main tasting area is furnished by interior designer Katie Martinez as a bright, welcoming living room. But it opens directly through 12-foot-high reclaimed wood doors into the lofty fermentation hall, which has iron-gray ceilings and walls. Against this dark backdrop, the stainless-steel fermentation tanks gleam brightly. Visitors start their appointment-only tours in the tasting area, then go through the fermentation hall and the caves. “My favorite element is the direct connection with production, which really enhances the intimacy of the whole winery experience,” says Fernandez. —Annette Hanami

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