The Essential Guide to California Terroir

BY JASON KIMMEL
SO WHAT’S THE BIG DEAL?

WHAT IS TERROIR?

CLIMATE
- hot
- cool

SOIL

TRADITION

TERRAIN
- other flora
- elevation
- slope
PINOT NOIR
WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN?

Hotter Climate = Dark cherry vs. tart cherry, blueberry, boysenberry, cola flavors and reduced acidity

Oak Usage = Fingerprint on the wine, more vanilla, spice, toast and caramel
CALIFORNIA WINEGROWING REGIONS

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CALIFORNIA VS. BURGUNDY

• Sonoma Coast AVA 2,000 Acres
• Fort Ross / Seaview AVA 500 Acres
• Russian River Valley AVA 15,000 Acres
• Santa Cruz Mountains AVA 1,500 Acres
• Cote De Nuits Size 529 Acres = 124+ Vineyards
SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS
WEATHER

Comparison Between - Calistoga - Alpine Vineyard

Temperature (°F)

Calistoga High  Calistoga Mean  CalistogaLow  AlpineVineyard High
AlpineVineyard Mean  AlpineVineyardLow
GEVREY CHAMBERTIN
SLOPE
WINE CHARACTERISTICS

1. Alcohol
2. Acidity
3. Earth
4. Fruit
5. Tannin
SO WHAT IS TERROIR REALLY?