



Napa Valley: The Land, The Wine, The People

By Daphne Larkin

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More than 30 years ago, *National Geographic* photographer Charles O'Rear came to the Napa Valley to cover a wine region few knew about. It was a pivotal moment for the valley as well as for O'Rear: his magazine article helped launch national awareness of America's blossoming wine region and the photographer found a place to call home. Since then his work has taken him across the globe many times over, but he has always been happy to return to this special place. With this book, his third on Napa Valley, O'Rear creates a treasured collector's item and establishes his legacy as the master photographer of the legendary wine region. He simply has no peers.

This 9 inch by 12 inch book showcases O'Rear's love of the Napa Valley through classically beautiful photographs that are iconic and singularly his. In his artful and compelling images, the place comes alive as he takes us on a journey into a Garden of Eden where we feast with all of our senses. We see people working the vineyards, creating memorable wines and living a life tied to the land. We admire awe-inspiring vistas, diverse winery architecture and world famous restaurants that make Napa Valley a national destination for food and wine. We are enthralled with the spectacular and comprehensive collection of art on the bottles of 350 wine capsules representing nearly every winery in the valley. We chuckle over the whimsical vanity license plates that broadcast we are in America's premier winegrowing region. With more than three decades documenting Napa Valley, O'Rear knows the place better than any other photographer on earth. In this book, his wife, writer Daphne Larkin, partners again with him. O'Rear's spectacular images and Larkin's illuminating text create a treasured collector's item to be enjoyed for years.

I've seen hundreds of photo books and this is the best I've ever seen! --W. E. (Bill) Garrett, former editor-in-chief, *National Geographic* magazine.

Napa Valley... is the coffee table book to have. -- Narsai David, **KCBS Food and Wine Editor.**

Chuck's incredible eye and perspective, and Daphne's artful prose capture the essence of the Napa Valley experience and community Clay Gregory, **President & CEO of Napa Valley Destination Council.**

His artistic eye has always captivated people who know excellence. -- Margrit

Mondavi, **Robert Mondavi Winery**.

Charles O'Rear's breathtaking photographs feel very personal. They inspire; they are sentimental. -- Chef Thomas Keller, **The French Laundry**.

O'Rear makes one of the most beautiful places in America seem even more beautiful than it is. --**Chicago Tribune**

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Editorial Review

About the Author

CHARLES O'REAR and **DAPHNE LARKIN** combined their talents to produce this elegant coffee table book. A photographer known for his books on wine and wine regions around the world, CHARLES O'REAR is recognized as one of the world's leading photographers. His wine books are: *Beringer Vineyards* (2009); *Wine Across America* (2007); *Wine Places* (2005); *Beautiful Wineries* (2005); *Napa Valley: The Land, The Wine, The People* (2001); *Chardonnay* (1999); *Cabernet* (1998); *Fodor's Wine Country* (1997); and *Napa Valley* (1990). He photographed for *National Geographic magazine* for 25 years, producing two dozen articles from around the U.S. and the world. O'Rear began photographing wine country when the magazine sent him to cover Napa Valley in 1978 for an article. Today he owns the largest collection of wine photos in the United States. Many of his photos are archived on the Corbis Collection and have appeared in thousands of publications, movies and on television. His most famous photograph is the Bliss photo, the rolling green hills default Microsoft screen saver on a billion computers worldwide.

DAPHNE LARKIN is an award-winning journalist who specializes in the wine industry. Partnering with her husband Charles O'Rear, she wrote, edited and co-produced several wine books, most recently *Wine Across America* and *Beringer*. She is a former United Nations journalist, reporter for *Newsweek International*, television news writer, contributing editor to *Parenting magazine* and senior vice president of corporate communications for a Fortune 500 company. In 1995, she won the Distinguished Service to Journalism Alumni Award from Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism for pioneering the story of children in America with disabilities. Charles and Daphne make their home in Napa Valley on a country lane surrounded by vineyards and views of the Mayacamas and Vaca Mountains.

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