

## JUDD'S HILL

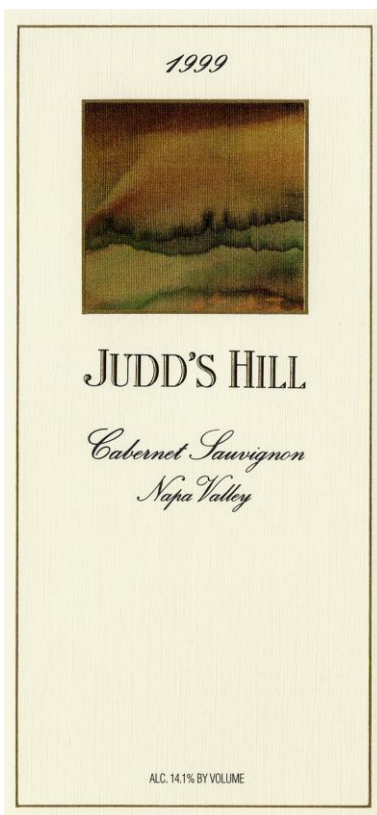
Finkelstein Vineyard, St. Helena

**N**estled far back in the Conn Valley sub-region of Napa, Art and Bunny Finkelstein's winery represented their retreat from the Big Business of wine. As founders and winemaking partners of Whitehall Lane Winery from 1979 to 1988, they presided over the expansion of production and reputation at that now prominent St. Helena landmark. "We sold the winery because it got too big for us," says Art, "and we got tired of being on the road all the time."

At Judd's Hill, which they named for their son, the Finkelsteins had a chance to start over, stay small, and concentrate on their forte and that of the Napa Valley: Cabernet and Merlot. Art crushes fruit for a vast array of clients but nearly all of them have in common those two great Bordeaux varieties, and a commitment to controlled yields and immaculate viticulture. "A lot of our clientele are people who bought a weekend place, and with it came a few hundred vines, and they don't know what to do with it." Art has had to cut off clients in recent years as the Valley fills up with vines and weekenders.

Some of Art's customers, however, are ambitious in scope and have entered into arrangements that permit him to showcase their fruit under the Judd's Hill Label. Merlots from Summers Ranch in Knights Valley and Juliana Vineyards in Pope Valley are prime examples.

In the late nineties, the Finkelsteins' have just planted another section of vineyard at their home property. This plot, recently purchased from their next-door neighbors, will be 100% based on old, pre-clonal Napa field selections, recreating a piece of history and no doubt another stellar Judd's Hill



Varieties: *Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon*

Acreage: *See notes at left.*

Production: *3,000 cases.*

**Cabernet Sauvignon Napa**  
[Finkelstein estate vnyd.]

**Merlot Napa**  
**Juliana Vnyds.**

**Merlot Knights Valley**  
**Summers Ranch**

Cabernet. In 2005, the home vineyard was put up for sale, but there will be no immediate impact on the production of wines by the Finkelsteins.

"This beautiful estate ... remains an unheralded as well as underrated source for fine Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon."

**Robert Parker, *The Wine Advocate***  
[1/00]