NVWE Study Guide

NVWE Study Guide was assembled by Robert Weidner, and is based on:
Appelation Napa Valley, written by Richard Mendelson; the NVWE coursework by Napa Valley Wine Academy,
the Napa Valley Vintners website, and the Grape Crush Report for the State of California.

American Viticultural Areas			
North Coast	1983		3M
Napa Valley	1981		46,000

Notable Figures		
Goerge Yount	First to Plant Grapes	1839
John Patchett	First Commercial Vineyard	1858
Charles Krug	First Commercial Winery	1861

NVWE — **Napa Valley Wine Expert**

An advanced level qualification.

Nested AVAs	Year	Variety	Acres	Notable Producers
Valley AVAs				
Los Carneros	1983	PN, Ch, Me	1,100	Bouchaine, Domaine Carneros, Etude, Hyde, Hudson, Saintsbury, Truchard
Wild Horse Valley	1988	PN, Ch, SB	70	Heron Lake
Stags Leap District	1989	CS, Me, SB	1,350	Cliff Lede, Clos Du Val, Shafer, Steltzner, Stag's Leap Wine Cellars*, Stags' Leap Winery
Oakville	1993	CS, Me, SB, Ch	5,275	Bond, Dalla Valle, Groth, Harlan, Martha's Vineyard, Robert Mondavi, Opus One, Screaming Eagle, Silver
Rutherford	1993	CS, Me, SB	4,371	Beaulieu Vineyards, Cakebread, Caymus, Grgich Hills, Inglenook, Mumm
Saint Helena	1995	CS, Me, Zi, SB	6,800	Beringer, Corison, Heitz, Charles Krug, Louis Martini, Joseph Phelps, Spottswoode
Chiles Valley	1999	CS, Me, SB, Zi	1,000	Green & Red, Volker Eisele
Yountville	1999	CS, Me, Ch, SB	4,000	Blankiet, Chandon, Dominus, Kapcsandy
Oak Knoll	2004	CS, Me, Ch, PN	4,000	Biale, Hendry, Trefethen
Calistoga	2009	CS, Zi, SB, Me	2,668	Eisele, Chateau Montelena*, Larkmead
Coombsville	2011	CS, Me, Ch	1,360	Meteor, Palmaz
Mountain AVAs				
Howell Mountain	1983	CS, Me, Zi	600	La Jota, Ladera, Outpost
Mount Vedeer	1990	CS, Me, Zi, Ch	1,000	Hess, Mayacamas, Mount Vedeer Winery
Atlas Peak	1992	CS, Ch, Me	1,500	Antica, Stagecoach
Spring Mountain	1993	CS, Me, Ch, CF	1,000	Cain, Pride Mountain, Smith-Madrone, Stony Hill, Spring Mountain Vineyard
Diamond Mountain	2001	CS, CF, Me	500	Diamond Creek, Schramsberg
Unofficial				
Pritchard Hill	NA	CS, CF, PV, Me	350	Chappellet Vineyards, David Arthur Vineyards

Variety	Abbreviation	Budding	Ripening	Cluster Size	Vigor	Aromatics	Pigment	Acidity	Tannin	Acres	Tons	Value
Sauvignon Blanc	SB	Late	Early	Small	High	High	Low	High	N/A	2,727	12,901	$29.5M
Chardonnay	Ch	Early	Early	Medium	High	Low	Medium+	Medium	N/A	6,445	20,684	$58.1M
Pinot Noir	PN	Early	Early+	Small	Medium	High	Low	Medium+	Low	2,798	8,607	$24M
Merlot	Me	Early	Mid	Small+	Medium+	High	High	Medium	Medium	4,583	13,160	$44.6M
Cabernet Sauvignon	CS	Late	Mid+	Medium	Medium+	High	High	High	High	20,953	66,733	$500.3M
Cabernet Franc	CF	Mid+	Mid+	Small+	Medium+	High	Medium+	Medium+	Medium+	1,166	2,907	$22.8M
Zinfandel	Zi	Early	Uneven	Medium+	High	High	Medium	Medium+	Medium	1,317	3,831	$13.9M

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Valley AVAs	Climate	Temp	Soil	Elev.	Rain
Los Carneros	Cool; marine winds from San Pablo Bay and Petaluma Gap to the west.	High: 80° Low: 50°	Hard claypan subsoil prevents deep rooting.	Sea to 800'	24"
Wild Horse Valley	Due to elevation and proximity to San Pablo Bay, it is the coolest NP AVA. Air passes over Carneros, and then cools another 10° by the time it rises.	High: 80° Low: 40°	Loam, volcanic, balsaltic red, shallow. Irrigation required.	600' to 1900'	35"
Stags Leap District	Moderately warm with afternoon marine winds cooling the warmer air radiating off the bare rocks of Stags Leap and the surrounding hillsides.	High: 100° Low: 50°	Volcanic gravelly loams, rocky hillsides. Low to mod fertility.	66' to 400'	30"
Oakville	Moderately warm. Strongly affected by night and early morning fog, which helps keep acidity levels good. East side receives afternoon sun.	High: 95° Low: 50°	Sediment alluvial loams, deep, volcanic. Low to mod fertitlity.	75' to 1000'	35"
Rutherford	Moderately warm, marginally influenced by early morning fog. Western bench area is cooler: less afternoon sun, tempered by afternoon winds.	High: 95° Low: 50°	Sediment, sandy, alluvial, deep. Good water retention, fertile.	Sea to 600'	38"
Saint Helena	Warm, greater protection from western hills, less fog or wind. Narrowest part of the valley floor, provides more heat reflection off hillsides.	High: 97° Low: 50°	Sediment, gravel-clay, lower fertility, mod water retention.	100' to 700'	40"
Chiles Valley	Warm summer days; chilly at night due to higher elevation and summer fog. Colder winter and spring. Strong winds, harvest comes later.	High: 87° Low: 50°	Alluvial floor, silty-clay, marine origin. Clay-loam hillsides.	600' to 1200'	35"
Yountville	Moderate, with cool marine influence and fog contributing to cool summer mornings; San Pablo Bay breeze keeps afternoons comfortable.	High: 92° Low: 55°	Gravelly silt loams, alluvial sediment, moderately fertile.	20' to 200'	32"
Oak Knoll	Moderate to cool, marine air and fog can remain until late morning. Afternoon breezes frequently occur; slighly cooler than upper valley.	High: 92° Low: 50°	Largest alluvial fan from Dry Creek. Gravely, volcanic, silt.	Sea to 800'	36"
Calistoga	Warm to hot, depending upon time of year. Cool afternoon and evening breezes drawn in from the Chalk Hill Gap from the Pacific.	High: 100° Low: 40°	Rock, stone, and gravel loams. Almost comlpetely volcanic.	300' to 1200'	60"
Coombsville	Weather is moderated by its proximity to th San Pablo Bay. Can be 10° cooler during hot months than most other AVAs, heat spikes less severe.	High: 90° Low: 50°	Volcanic rock and alluvial deposits from the Vaca range.	100' to 500'	25"
Mountain AVAs					
Howell Mountain	Above the fog line on the eastern side of the valley, warmer and drier, with more hours of sunshine and little-to-no marine influence.	High: 90° Low: 50°	Volcanic, shallow, and infertile. Drainage is high.	600' to 2200'	42"
Mount Vedeer	Cool to moderate, with most vineyards above the fog-line, measuring warmer nights and cooler days and less dirunal range than valley floor.	High: 85° Low: 50°	Sedimentary, shallow, well-drained, acidic. Low fertility.	500' to 2600'	49"
Atlas Peak	Cool, mountain influenced with temperatures about 10-15° cooler than the valley floor in summer; above the fog line.	High: 90° Low: 50°	Volcanic, basaltic red, shallow. Irrigation is essential.	760' to 2600'	38"
Spring Mountain	Cool to moderate depending on elevation and aspect. Most vineyards sit above the fog line, providing warmer nights and cooler days.	High: 85° Low: 50°	Sedimentary, weathered sandstone, shale. Low fertility.	600' to 2600'	50"
Diamond Mountain	Moderately warm with lower maximum temperatures and higher minimum than the valley floor, due to topagraphy and altitude.	High: 90° Low: 50°	Volcanic, reddish, fine-grained. Gritty in texture.	400' to 2200'	55"