



Platinum Wine Club

90+ Rated, Ultra Premium, Collectable Wines from California's Best Winemakers.

Envy Wines | Napa Valley

Mark Carter's career is somewhat varied and incredibly interesting. The Eureka (CA) native began as a builder of houses and commercial properties and eventually (in 1986) built a grand Victorian mansion that he named Carter House. Another three splendid Victorians were added to the unique property that sits alongside Humboldt Bay in the Old Town section of Eureka. The houses were made into bed and breakfasts and quickly became a favorite destination spot for numerous visitors. A restaurant, simply named *301 Restaurant*, completed the property and soon made Mark Carter a prosperous man.

About the same time, a winemaker in Napa Valley, Nils Venge, was being awarded a perfect 100 by *Robert Parker* for one of his wines, and the attention the rating received sparked something inside Mark Carter. The grandson of an Italian immigrant who ventured out and secured grapes that he make into a family-style Italian red, Mark Carter's family had wine with their Sunday dinners starting when Carter was the age of 3. With that interest in wine in his back pocket, Mark Carter decided to seek out Venge with an eye towards starting his own winery.

The two became friends and Venge visited Carter's enclave numerous times to officiate at winemaker dinners. Venge and Carter's careers continued successfully, and in 1994, the persistent Carter was finally able to persuade Venge to make some wine for him under the aegis of Carter Cellars. Buying the fruit from varied sources, Carter Cellars did quite well for the next decade. In some years, these sources weren't as available as in others, a fact that started Mark Carter thinking there might be a better way of approaching the winery business.

He approached Venge again with a proposition - the two would go in together and find an existing winery that would serve as the home for a new entity they would create.

In December of 2006, Venge located a property that fit the bill. Formerly called Calistoga Cellars, the land consisted of 18 acres, eleven of which were plantable. A deal was struck, and the pair huddled together to select a name for the new winery that would serve as the flagship for their associated brands.

Mark Carter wanted to use Venge's initials, *NV*, a natural for the area served. But Venge hesitated and a compromise was reached by adding an *E* and a *Y* to the existing *NV*. The pronunciation remained the same and Envy Estate Winery was officially in business.

After its initial release of just 500 cases in 2007, the partnership flourished, with extremely high marks and rave reviews for practically all of its wines. Volume has slowly risen to nearly 2,500 cases, a level that will remain steady for the foreseeable future.

"We want all of our wines to be estate wines," remarked Mark Carter during an interview. "With the low yield from our vines (about 2 1/2 tons per acre), we can only expect to produce a certain amount of cases. We have some really talented people around the winery, and we want to have complete control of all the quality aspects of our wines. With the superb fruit we get out of our vines, it is possible to keep our quality levels quite high."

Nils Venge, who is now known as "The King of Cabernet," produces estate grown Cabernet Sauvignon, Petite Sirah, Merlot, and Sauvignon Blanc for the Envy Wines label, and despite his reputation as "The King," he is a down-to-earth, cheerful, full-of-life kind of guy whose wines not only reflect the character of their region, but also seem to reflect his personality - bold, yet approachable, friendly and fun with layers of complexity. He is also the owner and winemaker for Saddleback Cellars and Cougar's Leap, both also in Napa Valley.

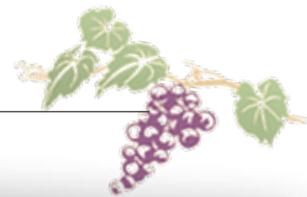
With a savvy team at the helm, Envy Estate Winery seems poised to join the ranks of California's top ultra-premium wine producers. They have great grapes, marvelous expertise, and a partnership that seems to have been made in heaven.

With the hard part (startup) of the business behind them, Mark Carter and Nils Venge are well on their way to that goal with nothing but blue skies and fabulous wines before them.

We are delighted to offer this Envy Estate Wines selection for your enjoyment.



Envy | 2016 Calistoga Estate Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley



95 POINTS

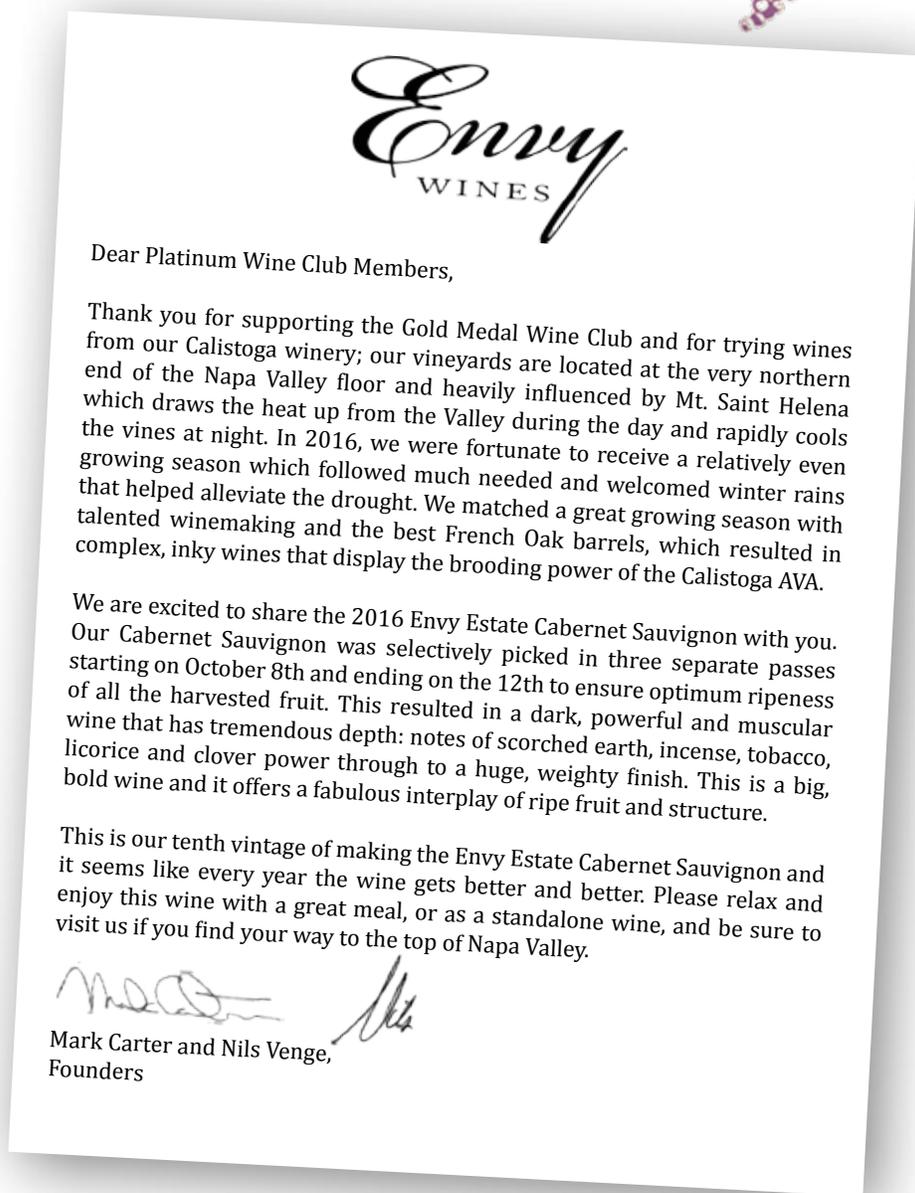
— Antonio Galloni's *Vinous*

92 POINTS

— Jeb Dunnuck

251 cases produced

The 2016 vintage was a stunning year for the Envy Estate Vineyards, and this Calistoga Cabernet Sauvignon shows a dark, powerful, muscular style, beautifully capturing the brooding power of Envy's Napa Valley property. Scorched earth, incense, tobacco, smoke, licorice and clovers power through on the nose and palate, all coming together on the huge, weighty, yet well-balanced finish. This Cabernet Sauvignon is big and bold. It may not be a subtle wine, but it does offer a fabulous interplay of ripe fruit and structure and it deserves a special home in your cellar. Try pairing the Envy 2016 Calistoga Estate Cabernet Sauvignon with ribs, a sirloin steak, Portabello mushrooms, or a great burger. Aged 18 months in oak. 100% Cabernet Sauvignon. Enjoy!



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**This month's Platinum *Plus!*
Featured Wine:**

Potek 2014 Syrah
Mormann Vineyard, Sta. Rita Hills

93 Points - Antonio Galloni's *Vinous*
184 Cases Produced



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