

## Send in the Clones

**John Caldwell's curiosity about genes has helped him produce one of Napa's finest wineries.**

by Kevin Lynch



John and Joy Caldwell have built a tasting room that offers charcuterie, cheese, and produce from the area—perfect pairings with Caldwell wines.

**THERE ARE MANY DIRECTIONS FROM WHICH A PRODUCER CAN APPROACH WINE MAKING.** John Caldwell followed genetics, studying clonal variations of French grape vines. What began as a curiosity transformed into a fascination and finally a vineyard. Not just any vineyard but the source of some of California's best Merlot, Syrah, Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon bottles.

"I made my way into the wine business based on what I learned on French viticulture and through my exposure to the French methods," says Caldwell. Not only that: In 1998, he became the only U.S. signatory of an international agreement with the French government that grants him access to their clonal bank.

In 1998, John and his wife, Joy, launched their own label and

added Tannat, Malbec, Carménère, and Petit Verdot grapes. Located in Napa's Coombsville, Caldwell wines attracts discerning guests who come to enjoy the elegant, intimate, and personalized experience in the stunning wine cave tasting room. Here, in the tasting room, Joy works closely with local charcuterie, cheese, and produce purveyors to create lasting memories.

*caldwellvineyard.com*