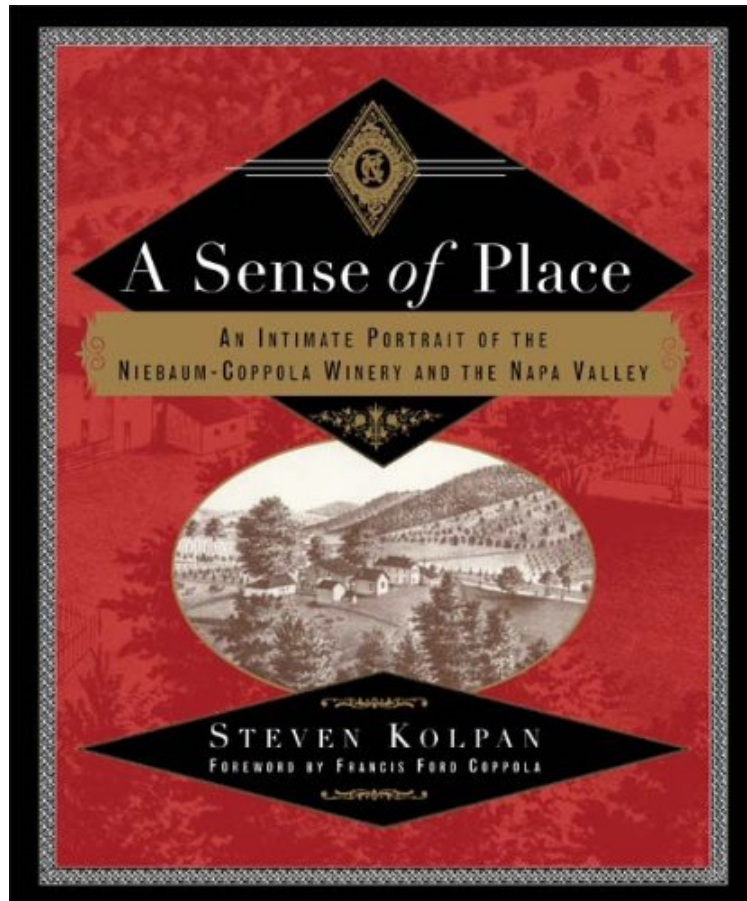


(Mobile library) A Sense of Place: An Intimate Portrait of the Niebaum-Coppola Winery and the Napa Valley

A Sense of Place: An Intimate Portrait of the Niebaum-Coppola Winery and the Napa Valley

Steven Kolpan

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Steven Kolpan : A Sense of Place: An Intimate Portrait of the Niebaum-Coppola Winery and the Napa Valley before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Sense of Place: An Intimate Portrait of the Niebaum-Coppola Winery and the Napa Valley:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A wonderful summation of Inglenook's story as of 1999, but the narrative is not on par with the research. By Ollie Halvorson As a summation of the Inglenook vineyards history from beginning to date as of 1999 the book is a great addition to anyone's collection; however, the story-telling or narrative flow of the author's writing is not on par with the depth of research. I found the narrative choppy and, in some sections, barely above outline form. Having said that, I would encourage anyone considering the book to purchase it in order to have a great summation of this historic vineyard's story; but don't look for a "spell-binding" narrative. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Cheers! Fun and informative read! By Nelson Aspen This breezy history of the Neibaum-Coppola vineyards reads like a novel, it's that interesting and informative. As a casual admirer of the N-C

label, I had a passing interest in going "behind the scenes," but I couldn't have imagined how compelling and educational this attractive little book actually would be! You'll probably read it in only a sitting or two, but you will definitely finish it off by wanting to explore the wide array of delicious N-C products so objectively and accurately explained and reviewed in the text. 5 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A Warm and Cheering Read to be Savored By Wily Dog At last, a book about wine that has a heart and a soul. The story of the Niebaum-Coppola winery is rendered with such affection for the land, the people who cultivate it, and the wine they create, that it pulls you right into history. This is a story, not a textbook, with real characters of real integrity (and just enough of the "bad guys" to make it interesting). In an age where corporate conglomerates seem to spread like phylloxera, I found great comfort in reading about people who literally took back the land and started doing things right again. The frankness with which Rafael Rodriguez and Kolpan tell the story makes you understand this history from a human perspective. If you're looking for a quick read packed with oenology factoids, move on. Sure, there is lots of information and science in here, but the author weaves it all into the story, translating details into meaning---a reflection, I suppose, of his experience as an educator. So many (too many) wine writers focus so much on the mercenary aspects of winemaking (production, distribution, and marketing) that you wonder if they even really like the stuff for its own sake, not just because it's such-and-such vintage from such-and-such chateau. Kolpan obviously loves wine dearly for the spirit it embodies; his affection for the fruit of the vine will inspire you.

In *A Sense of Place*, renowned wine expert and writer Steven Kolpan tells the story of how Francis Ford Coppola brought California's most distinguished and historic vineyard back to life. Gustave Niebaum's Inglenook Estate, started in 1879, was one of the Napa Valley's first established vineyards and the birthplace of its premium wine industry. Generations after Niebaum's death, the vineyard was sold to Heublein, the wine and spirits monolith, who broke up the land and changed the Inglenook brand from a premium, connoisseur wine to a mass-market jug wine. In 1975, Francis Coppola bought the Niebaum residence and the surrounding estate. Along with the original estate's reputation, he also brought back some of its original workers, including Rafael Rodriguez, who, in his late seventies, now serves as the vineyard manager and historian. Coppola overcame naysayers, red tape, and financial turmoil to reestablish the winery as a defender of quality, producing wine under four different labels, including the revered wine Rubicon. In 1995, Coppola purchased the Inglenook Chateau and its adjacent vineyards, fulfilling his dream of reuniting the original Napa Valley estate. Kolpan's luscious, flavorful narrative is worth enjoying now and keeping for later.

.com Obscenely wealthy entrepreneurs--men who made their bundle in the coffee business, mining, shipping, commodities, and politics--decide to buy hobby vineyards in the trendy Napa Valley. The San Francisco Examiner publishes a special lifestyle edition on California wines. Sound familiar? Welcome to Rutherford, California circa 1890. And welcome to *A Sense of Place: An Intimate Portrait of the Niebaum-Coppola Winery and the Napa Valley* by Steven Kolpan, professor of wine studies at The Culinary Institute of America. By charting the history of one piece of Napa soil, the author provides an absolutely fascinating tour that is part documentary, part Hollywood fable, and part scathing chronicle of corporate ineptitude. When Finnish mariner-turned-San-Francisco-millionaire Gustav Niebaum establishes Inglenook Estate in 1879, his dream is to make the finest wine in California. His heir comes close to fulfilling the dream before selling a portion of the estate to a wine co-op, which is purchased by liquor giant Heublein. Heublein turns the once-proud estate into a jug wine brand. Meanwhile, the heir's Mormon wife--who hates everything about the wine business--sells the original house and remaining vineyards to film director Francis Ford Coppola, who 20 years later buys Heublein's parcel to reunite the original estate. Chapters recount this tale through the recollections of Rafael Rodriguez, a migrant laborer working at the property in the 1950s and now vineyard manager; Scott McLeod, current Niebaum-Coppola "winegrower" and artisan of the high-end Rubicon; and Dennis Fife, Inglenook's final president during the tumultuous Heublein days and now a respected winemaker in his own right, in a chapter that reads like a financial report written by Mel Brooks. Captain Niebaum's 1884 Inglenook Claret sold for \$3 a case. Coppola's 1995 Rubicon was \$75 a bottle. For the price of *A Sense of Place*, every Cabernet fan will be able to savor a little piece of "Rutherford dust." --Tony Mason From Publishers Weekly Kolpan, wine professor at the Culinary Institute of America, tells of the rise, fall and rebirth of the Niebaum-Coppola Winery. In 1879, Gustave Niebaum, a Finnish immigrant, purchased 1000 acres of property in Northern California's Napa Valley, which he christened Inglenook (Scottish for "cozy corner"). Having already made his fortune in the Alaskan fur trade, Niebaum tried his hand at wine making, a venture that proved very profitable. The years following Niebaum's death in 1908, however, were turbulent for Inglenook. Fourteen years of Prohibition nearly forced the winery to close. Even after the law was repealed, Americans were slow in developing a taste for the grape. Consequently, the winery suffered extreme financial difficulties and was sold to corporate interests that had no intention of producing fine wine. In 1975, film director Francis Ford Coppola resuscitated the estate, which had fallen victim to years of mismanagement and neglect. While parts of the book read like publicity material for the Coppola vineyards ("To think of Rubicon [the flagship wine] as a commodity is to ignore its viticulture and viniculture"), Kolpan nicely incorporates vivid figures (including Rafael Rodriguez, a Mexican who started at Inglenook as a migrant worker in the 1940s and now serves as the

vineyard manager and historian) and explanations of such viticultural concepts as terroir. The French term for the "elusive, indefinable mix of soil" and climate that gives wines their unique character. Illustrations. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. ...lovingly written... Wine lovers will be captivated by the tale of the Inglenook property and its extraordinary wines and workers. -- Brill's Content This book is fun: it conveys a sense of gossip and local intrigue by focusing on persons who make the story... this pleasant read is recommended as entertainment while sipping a glass of fine wine. General readers. -- Choice A discerning view of the winery... Mr. Kolpan is particularly good on the contributions of the Mexican laborers who quietly perform so much of the work that goes into making Napa Valley wines. -- Wine Talk, New York Times If you've visited the winery owned by movie director Francis Ford Coppola in Napa Valley lately, or recalled the glory days of its predecessor, the old Inglenook Winery, I've got a book for you... First, let me say, that I find most wine biography books rather self-serving and, frankly, downright boring... But Kolpan doesn't hold anything back, even criticizing some of the wines and letting industry folks speak frankly. And, in this case, that's the best part. -- Seattle Times Kolpan, wine professor at the Culinary Institute of America, tells of the rise, fall, and rebirth of the Niebaum-Coppola Winery... Kolpan nicely incorporates vivid figures (including Rafael Rodriguez, a Mexican who started at Inglenook as a migrant worker in the 1940s and now serves as the vineyard manager and historian) and explanations of such viticultural concepts as 'terroir.'. -- Publisher's Weekly, 8/30 Steven Kolpan's remarkably well researched book on the Niebaum-Coppola Winery goes well beyond the walls of the vineyard of the winery itself. In addition to addressing the importance of this remarkable winery, it offers a passionate and informative look at the history of the California wine industry as a whole. A Sense of Place is one of the most enjoyable, educational and significant wine books I have ever read. -- Daniel Johnnes, Wine Director, Montrachet, New York City and the author of Daniel Johnnes' Top 200 Wines: An Expert's Guide to Maximum Enjoyment for Your Dollar Kolpan ends his book with his own detailed tasting notes of every Rubicon, the premier red wine produced here. This alone is invaluable information, as are the interviews, the history and a sense, not only of place, but of what is right and great about Napa Valley. Steven Kolpan has written an unforgettable book about an unforgettable story. -- The Underground Wine Journal The writing is an easy, entertaining read. -- Robert Kirtland, Ohio Blade Having grown up in the Napa Valley and watched Inglenook decline, it was wonderful to see Francis Ford Coppola resurrect the Inglenook Winery from the ashes and restore it to its past glories. Steven Kolpan's A Sense of Place captures the essence and the spirit of this metamorphosis. -- Louis Trincherro, Chairman and CEO, Trincherro Family Estates/Sutter Home Winery