



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

September 2020

California Wine Month

California is blessed with unique topography, climate and soils ideally suited to the production of fine wines. Our diverse landscape of mountains, valleys and deserts, combined with an 800-mile coastline that brings a cooling fog to vineyards, creates dozens of microclimates for the 120 winegrape varieties that flourish in the state. California's winemaking history dates back to the 1700's and continues today with 4,200 wineries and 5,900 winegrape growers in 49 of the state's 58 counties.

As an industry, California wine brings innumerable benefits to the state. Our historic and scenic winegrowing regions, renowned cuisine based on 400 local crops and the hospitality of our winery tasting rooms attract 24 million winery visits each year. As this industry grapples with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, my Administration is committed to working with vintners and growers to reopen wineries in counties when they may do so safely.

California's vintners and growers are primarily family businesses whose environmental stewardship and social responsibility reflect their commitment to remain in operation in the state for generations to come. The California Sustainable Winegrowing Program is the most widely adopted and comprehensive wine sustainability program in the world. California's wine community is also broadly embracing third-party certification with 92 percent of the state's wine produced in a Certified California Sustainable Winery. Our wineries and vineyards participate in statewide and regional educational and certification programs including the Bay Area Green Business Program, Certified California Sustainable Winegrowing, Fish Friendly Farming, Lodi Rules, Napa Green and Sustainability in Practice (SIP), demonstrating the wine community's commitment to preserving the land, natural resources and human capital that will continue the bounty and high quality of California wine long into the future.

Whether enjoyed here in California, the rest of the country or in cities and towns around the world, each bottle of California wine is an ambassador for our state's world-famous lifestyle, culture and cuisine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gavin Newsom', written over a horizontal line.

GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of the State of California