

Wine Guide

America's **500** Best
Wine Producers

2015

DANA ESTATES

Korean food importer and wine connoisseur Hi Sang Lee hired Napa Valley's go-to architect Howard Backen to envision an 1883 ghost winery. No expense was spared on what is now one of the valley's most exquisite small gems. Dana (pronounced *Dah-nah*) bottles 100 percent Cabernet Sauvignons from three distinctive vineyards, each vinified in its own winery within the winery, plus a fourth wine, Onda, blended from the estate vineyards. Consultant Philippe Melka and winemaker Cameron Vawter produce prodigious yet graceful wines that are eye-opening about the state of the art in American Cabernet.

● **Dana Lotus Vineyard / 2010 / Napa Valley / \$\$\$\$**

Lotus, the warmest of the vineyards farmed by Dana, yielded this Cabernet Sauvignon, which would be over-the-top luscious if not for its formidable underlying tannic structure.

● **Onda / 2011 / Napa Valley / \$\$\$\$**

This is Dana's still very pricey "second" wine—and the only one blended from its various vineyards. The 2011 Onda comes mainly from the warmer Crystal Springs and Lotus sites, which yielded this lusciously full-bodied, multilayered red, a successful exception in a year of challenging weather.

by the Editors of Food & Wine
and Richard Nalley

