

the Atlantic

How Winemaking Is Like the Fashion Industry

By Larry Stone

Vineyard owners love to talk about unchanging traditions. But over the decades, the style of their wines has probably changed.

The world of wine likes to tout the traditional aspects of winemaking: the long history, the sustainable farming practices, the low-tech methods of the industry where the environment of any human endeavor and science that have given technological approaches to alcohol, but they were r

However, a wine is the quickly it proceeds, the outcome. In this way, w

At no time is this more distinctive site, a wine v may have influenced it.

when Bettina Sichel, who has grown up in the wine industry and who knows a great site when she tastes it, concluded the purchase of Laurel Glen from its founder, Patrick Campbell. Here in Sonoma, Patrick has worked to make balanced and classically shaped

Kaufmann. So wines over the

In the 1980s, L acidified to rea and brittle for Napa or Borde

In the 1990s, the wines became riper, picked a little later, still not becoming ponderously high in alcohol, but they were not acidified as much or as higher than ever before inferior if there was even they never thought it v pH and acid stay when

Finally, in the last 10 y the wine, so the winer acidity levels at harvest

I liked the early wines, which were crisp and leaner, with some herbal notes, yet which were vibrant still after so many years. When I first tasted these wines, when they were in their infancy, I was impressed with their structure. More importantly, I believed they would improve with age, develop more complexity and nuance. I believe that they did.



LAUREL GLEN

Vineyard

"[Laurel Glen] wines from the early 1990s to 1997 are among the best efforts in California of that era and certainly over time the most interesting Cabernet in Sonoma."

"The more recent wines are excellent, nearly as ripe as the wines from the 1990s but with a little more nuance and freshness. This leads me to believe that they will mature as nicely as the others have, if not better than the wines from the 1980s."

"The retrospective tasting showed the incredible persistence of terroir and the consistent high quality of the wines throughout the years. From the very beginning to the present day, all the wines show complexity, longevity and classical proportions, regardless of the trends that may have effected winemaking decisions along the way."