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napa valley vintage overview

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The 2024 vintage in Napa Valley will be remembered as a season of bold character and quiet resilience. Following the celebrated 2023 harvest, it charted its own course: warmer, more demanding, and generous in its own right. According to Winemaker Jean Hoefliger, 2024 is in many ways 2023 amplified, a year that tested growers at every turn and rewarded preparation, communication, and trust between vineyard and cellar.

For white wines, the foundation was laid well before budbreak. The long, even 2023 season left the vines rested and recovered, and exceptional winter rainfall stored deep soil moisture that would prove critical in the months ahead. When summer heat arrived, the vines were ready for it. Heat events were frequent, but most days held between 95 and 100°F rather than climbing further, and lush canopies shaded the fruit through the warmest stretches. An earlier harvest captured the white varieties at their freshest, preserving natural acidity and aromatic lift. The resulting wines are bright, textured, and expressive, with generous fruit balanced by a clean, energetic finish.

For red wines, the warmth of the season built depth and concentration, while wide diurnal swings kept acidity firmly in place. Healthy vines and ample soil reserves allowed the fruit to ripen with remarkable composure, even as harvest arrived earlier than in 2023 and compressed the picking schedule. The reds are deep in color and richly flavored, with ripe dark fruit, refined tannins, and a bright backbone that gives them lift. They strike a balance between power and precision, drinking beautifully young while holding the structure to age with grace.

Jean describes 2024 as a vintage that earned its place through sheer conviction. If 2023 was defined by its effortless cool, 2024 shows Napa Valley in its most confident, expressive form, shaped by challenge and refined by the skill of the people who brought it in.