Napa Wine Seminar
May 4 to 8, 2017

“Excellent lectures, great food and wine, superb organization.”

—John Crowe, Spain Food and Wine, 2015
Many people who live in Northern California think of the Napa Valley in as familiar terms as their own back yard. Yet there are exclusive wineries in Napa that are nearly impossible to visit, unless a special reservation is secured through an inside source. Our goal with the Napa Wine Seminar is to bring wine enthusiasts to properties that few have been to and taste exquisite wines that represent the upper echelon of wine-making, through invitations secured by our own inside connections. Our special access will also include conversations with wine makers, vineyard managers, winery founders and owners. Learn about old- and new-style Napa with visits to Shafer Vineyards, which has been run by the Shafer family since the early 1970s, and Darioush, a winery founded in 1997 by Iranian immigrant, Darioush Khaledi. Spend a day at Spring Mountain Vineyard, which sits on over 800 acres of mountainous terrain and produces many varietals of highly acclaimed red and white wines. Enjoy brunch at Schramsberg Vineyards, producer of sparkling wines, started by Stanford alum, Jack Davies, ’49, in the late 1960s. Celebrate the journey with a farewell event at Trefethen Family Vineyards, hosted by the Trefethen Family, two generations of Stanford alumni. Begin each day with lectures from wine industry experts who will share their knowledge with the group and add to the educational element provided by our insider guide and Master of Wine, James Cluer.
Wine Expert

James Cluer, MW, is a professional wine judge, author and educator who consults with wineries, governments and airlines. James founded and runs Fine Vintage Ltd., a provider of wine education. Established in 1995, Fine Vintage Ltd. operates in 15 countries. It is the leading wine education provider in North America, the largest luxury wine tour company in Canada, plus it runs two home delivery clubs and 15 wine jobs recruitment websites. The company has performed consultancy services for two Canadian governments, Qatar Airways, Crystal Cruises, Fairmont and Marriott Hotels, and several of the most famous wineries in the world.

As a Master of Wine, James is regarded as one of the world’s leading experts on wine. Since 1953 there have only been 44 MWs in North America and 396 worldwide. He is known in the industry as “the nose of wine” and has been profiled in Wine Spectator, Wine Enthusiast, TIME magazine, Travel + Leisure and many more publications. James is currently the general manager of two new wineries and serves as a judge at prestigious international wine competitions. He also writes for newspapers and magazines. He will accompany our seminar from start to finish.

“What a perfect way to get behind the scenes in this prestigious wine region. James was a knowledgeable and friendly host who gave us just the right amount of information.”

Itinerary

Thursday, May 4

**Home / Napa, California**
Arrive independently to the Napa Valley and check in to our hotel in the heart of downtown Napa, overlooking the Napa River. During our welcome reception and introductions, enjoy an opening lecture from our wine expert. Travel to Silver Oak Cellars for a tour, tasting and dinner. Silver Oak is considered the first cult Napa winery. It makes only one wine, its Cabernet Sauvignon, which adorns wine lists at many of the finest restaurants in the country. We’ll learn about this legendary winery, a specialist in the use of American oak, as we sip a selection of vintages. NAPA RIVER INN (D)

Friday, May 5

**Napa Valley**
After breakfast at our hotel and a lecture from one of our faculty speakers, visit Shafer Vineyards in the Stags Leap district; the Shafer family started this prestigious winery back when there were very few visitors to Napa Valley. Today the wines command some of the highest prices and a visit here is truly a privilege. The winery’s Hillside Select and One Point Five wines are revered by wine lovers. Afterward, travel to Darioush, a winery that exemplifies the face of modern-day Napa and is an architectural wonder; it has a unique focus on the heady Viognier varietal. Enjoy lunch followed by a tour and continued tasting of the winery’s fine wines. After a full day of learning, tasting and gastronomy, relax back at our hotel and enjoy a free evening to explore Napa’s many excellent restaurants at leisure. NAPA RIVER INN (B,L)

Saturday, May 6

**Napa Valley**
Following breakfast and a lecture at our hotel, set out for an extended excursion to Spring Mountain Vineyard, just west of St. Helena. Closed to the public, it’s perhaps the most beautiful property in the entire Napa Valley. Meet with viticulturist Ron Rosenbrand, a wine industry veteran, who will talk about the innovative methods he created to organically and bio-dynamically manage the property. Enjoy a barbecue lunch accompanied by several older vintages of the winery’s iconic Cabernet. Late this afternoon enjoy a private tour and tasting at Opus One estate winery. When Robert Mondavi and Baron Philippe de Rothschild from Bordeaux formed their partnership, their singular goal was to produce one wine that stood among the best in the world. We’ll taste their vision while being tutored by our host. Return to our hotel in the late afternoon and enjoy an evening at leisure. NAPA RIVER INN (B,L)

Sunday, May 7

**Napa Valley**
Enjoy breakfast this morning at our hotel, followed by a lecture. Later, set out for lunch accompanied by sparkling wines at Schramsberg Vineyards, nestled in the hills just south of Calistoga. Tour the property and talk with owner, Hugh Davies, son of founders Jamie and Jack Davies, ’49. They pioneered fine traditional-method sparkling wine in the U.S. and built a series of underground tunnels where their wines mature for years before release. Return to our hotel early this afternoon for some time at leisure, then travel to Trefethen Family Vineyards for our farewell reception, followed by a gala dinner on the property. The Trefethen family, including founder John Trefethen, MBA ’72, and his son Loren, ’06, have built a winery that exudes warmth and friendliness, as well as being rated best Cabernet and Chardonnay in the U.S. on multiple occasions. We’ll dine with the family in a private area at the winery and sip some of their best wines. NAPA RIVER INN (B,L,D)

Monday, May 8

**Napa / Home**
Travel home following breakfast and checkout. (B)
What to Expect

Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health. We consider this seminar to be a moderately active program. On average, daily programs involve one mile of walking, sometimes on uneven terrain, such as through vineyards. Our days begin with breakfast and a lecture, followed by a mid-morning departure from our hotel. Full days of wine tastings and tours are balanced by time at leisure.

Spring is an ideal time to visit the Napa Valley. The weather is mild but clear and sunny with morning and evening temperatures in the 60s (°F) and mid-70s during the day. Early May is just prior to the busy summer tourist season when the flowers are blooming and the hillsides are lush and green.

Our hotel

With a multitude of options for lodging in the Napa Valley, we chose the Napa River Inn for its location, central to the wineries we’ll visit, plus close to a wide array of excellent restaurants, tasting rooms and shopping. As our itinerary is full, having these local amenities within walking distance will give travelers nearly effortless options. And rather than spending a fortune on a lavish hotel that we don’t have time to fully enjoy, we are sure that the quality of the rooms and added features of the hotel, such as a spa, complimentary car service and daily breakfast in bed, will offer a relaxed retreat travelers will enjoy.

Information

Dates
May 4 to 8, 2017 (5 days)

Size
This program can accommodate 20 participants. Single accommodations are extremely limited; please call for availability.

Cost*
$4,495 per person, double occupancy
$4,895 per person, single occupancy
*Association nonmembers add $300 per person

Included
- 4 nights of luxury hotel accommodations
- 4 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 2 dinners
- Wine with lunch and dinner
- Welcome and farewell receptions
- Exclusive wine tastings and tours
- Gratuities to porters, waiters, guides and drivers for all group activities
- All tours as described in the itinerary
- Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance
- Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information
• Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

Not Included
• Air transportation
• Meals and beverages other than those specified as included
• Independent and private transfers
• Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance
• Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

Terms and Conditions

Deposit and Final Payment
A $1,000-per-person deposit is required to hold space on this program. Sign up online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?napa2017 or call the Travel/Study office at (650) 725-1093. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

Cancellations and Refunds
Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

Insurance
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional trip-cancellation and baggage insurance. Information offering such insurance will be provided to travelers with their welcome materials. The product offered includes special benefits if you purchase your policy within 14 days of written confirmation of your participation on the trip.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $300 more than the member’s price. A person traveling as a guest paid for by a current member will not be charged the nonmember fee. Call (650) 725-0692 or visit alumni.stanford.edu/goto/membership for more information or to purchase a membership.

Responsibility
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part.
The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable ticket connected with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in June 2016 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.

California Seller of Travel Program Registration #2048 523-50

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Contact Information

Visit us online to reserve space:
http://alumni.stanford.edu/trip?napa2017

Questions? Call us at (650) 725-1093 or email us at travelstudy@alumni.stanford.edu

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