



Hyde de Villaine

A poised Napa Valley red blending Cabernet Sauvignon's graphite and cassis with Merlot's plush plum, channeling Carneros' coolness into a finely etched, cellar-worthy profile. Classic Bordeaux sensibilities meet California precision.



Belle Cousine 2019

California, USA

Region and Vineyards

Belle Cousine hails from the **Hyde Vineyard** in Los Carneros, the coolest corner of Napa Valley. Marine fog and breezes from San Pablo Bay temper ripening, preserving acidity and aromatic lift—a key to the wine's poise. The vineyard's **Haire clay loam** (over clay hardpan) offers excellent drainage yet moderates vine vigor, promoting small berries and concentrated flavors. South-by-southwest exposures ensure even ripening despite the cool climate, while sustainable farming underpins fruit purity and site transparency.

Vine age adds complexity: blocks supplying Belle Cousine range roughly from the mid-teens to more than three decades old, a mosaic that layers bright red fruit over darker cassis and savory tones. Hyde Vineyard's reputation for meticulous viticulture and clonal diversity further contributes to the wine's fine-boned tannins and long, saline-tinged finish—signatures often associated with **Carneros** reds grown near the bay.

Winemaking

Belle Cousine is a **Bordeaux-style blend** built primarily on Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. In 2019, the assemblage is **60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot**, all sourced from Hyde Vineyard. Fermentations are conducted with a focus on extracting ripe, fine-grained tannins rather than sheer power, preserving the vintage's freshness and detail.

Élevage typically lasts **about 22 months in French oak**, with a judicious proportion of **new barrels (~30%)**, and the wine is bottled **without fining or filtration** to retain texture and aromatic nuance. The 2019 vintage carries **~14.4% vol. alcohol**, reflecting ripe fruit balanced by Carneros' cooling influence. The result is a wine of **restraint, discipline, and terroir**, true to the estate's Franco-Californian ethos.

Alcohol :14,40 %

Composition: 55% Cabernet
Sauvignon, 45% Merlot



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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep ruby with a vivid rim; excellent clarity and moderate staining.
- **Aroma:** Cassis, blackberries and red currant layered with violet, graphite, tobacco and cocoa nibs; hints of mint, blood orange, leather and mocha emerge with air.
- **Palate:** Medium-plus body with vibrant acidity; sleek, fine tannins carry dark red/blue fruits, cola and spice. Savory pencil-lead detail and cool herbal lift shape a long, racy finish.

Did you know?

"**Belle Cousine**" is a tribute to **Pamela Fairbanks de Villaine**—Larry Hyde's cousin and Aubert de Villaine's wife—whose family ties sparked the HdV partnership, uniting **Hyde's** Carneros legacy with **de Villaine's** Burgundian heritage.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Herb-crusted lamb rack:** Cabernet's graphite and Merlot's plush core sync with lamb's savory richness; minty top-notes echo the wine's cool herbal lift.
- **Porcini risotto:** Umami and creamy texture meld with cocoa/mocha tones and fine tannins, balancing richness with acidity.
- **Grilled duck breast with cherry jus:** Dark fruit and spice meet duck's sweetness; acidity refreshes each bite.
- **Aged Comté:** Nutty, salty depth highlights the wine's mineral line and subtle oak spice.



James Suckling (JS) : 96 Points (2019)

Lead pencil and blackberries with blackcurrants. Slate, too. Medium body, firm and fine tannins and a racy finish. Linear and polished. Crunchy. Pencil shavings. Slightly roasted coffee beans. So subtle and energetic. 60% cabernet sauvignon and 40% merlot. Drink or hold.



Vinous (Antonio Galloni) (VN) : 95 Points (2019)

The 2019 Belle Cousine, 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot from Hyde, is fabulous. Bright and focused, the 2019 bristles with energy. Strong Cabernet inflections give this mid-weight red tons of aromatic presence to match its mid-weight personality. Dark red/blue fruits, mint, blood orange, spice, leather and mocha are some of the notes that emerge over time. Like all the best wines here, the Belle Cousine offers outstanding focus, clarity and freshness.



Robert Parker (RP) : 94 Points (2019)

The 2019 Belle Cousine is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot matured for 22 months in about 30% new French oak. It has intense aromas of cassis, black plums, cocoa powder, violet and licorice. The medium-bodied palate is pure and detailed with velvety tannins, vibrant acidity nestled into its concentrated, perfumed flavors and a long, elegant finish. (EB)



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