

IN THE COUNTRY *Napa Now*

Master of the House

In the wine-country outpost of Yountville, California, oenophiles are lingering for longer than usual at **Ma(i)sonry Napa Valley**, the newest enterprise of banker turned vintner Michael Polenske, of Blackbird Vineyards fame. Inside his gallery-cum-wineshop, in a 105-year-old, meticulously renovated stone-and-mortar building,

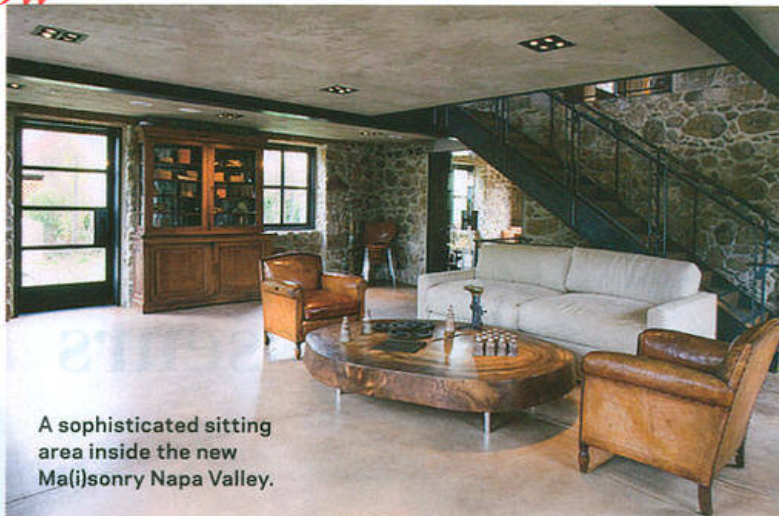
Polenske has curated a collection of antiques, art, limited-edition furniture and rare wines, which are on hand for tasting and purchase. Accented with original, unmilled timbers and a steel-mesh staircase, the two-level salon evokes a private home appointed with objets from here and abroad.

"This is a living gallery," Polenske says. "We wanted to put the tasting of hard-to-find artisan wines into an intimate setting that is approachable."

To that end, you can sip a Lail Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc or a Brown Estate Zinfandel while lounging on a



Owner
Michael
Polenske.



A sophisticated sitting area inside the new Ma(i)sonry Napa Valley.

1967 Ligne Roset Togo sofa or sitting on the patio at a thirty-six-foot-long communal redwood table made by artist Ron Mann. Flights of two to eight glasses range from \$20 to \$50 and are accompanied by nuts and cheeses; bottles are \$25 to roughly \$150. (Appointments are recommended, but walk-ins are welcome; Thursday through Saturday the store is open evenings until 10:00 P.M., a rarity for a wineshop here.)

More than the wine is for sale, of course. Belgian motorcycle goggles, circa 1920, are \$400 a pair; a French 1950s mechanic's lamp is \$7,500. Alexandra von Furstenberg's neon-yellow Lucite console table, signed and numbered, is \$9,000. Swallowing a high price tag, Polenske has apparently determined, is made easier by first swallowing a Cabernet. 6711 Washington Street; 707-944-0889; maisonry.com.

SUZANNE GANNON