

CALIFORNIA  
WINEMAKERS  
STRIKE GOLD WITH  
THIS NEWLY  
RELEASED VINTAGE  
BY JAMES LAUBE

# 2006

## TOP WINES

WINE	SCORE
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<b>CONTINUUM Oakville 2006</b>	<b>95</b>
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Offers rich dark chocolate, mocha and espresso, with ripe, currant laced Cabernet fruit. Elegant. Cabernet blend.



## Continuum

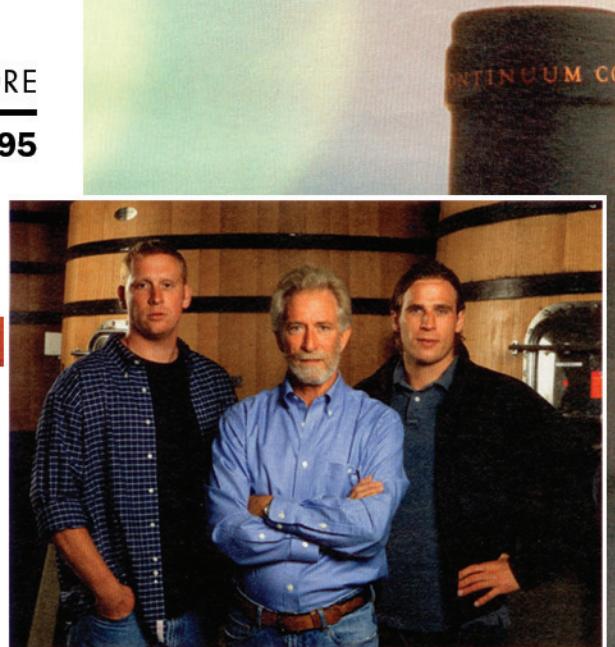
### Tim Mondavi's Latest Venture

From his newly acquired vineyard on Pritchard Hill, Tim Mondavi looks out over Napa Valley, where he can see his past and envision his future.

Below the vineyard lie Robert Mondavi Winery, Opus One and Charles Krug, all from earlier parts of his life in wine. Tim's latest venture, Continuum, which he started in 2005 with his sister, Marcia Borger, his father, Robert (now deceased), and his father's wife, Margrit, connects the two worlds. The first three vintages—2005, 2006 and 2007—all feature Cabernet from the famous To Kalon Vineyard in Oakville, once owned in part by the Mondavies (now held by Constellation), but from 2008 forward, Mondavi, 57, will incorporate grapes from his new vineyard, the former Cloud View property, which he acquired last year.

Pritchard Hill is a revered Cabernet area. Mondavi's neighbors include Bryant, Colgin and Dalla Valle, and it's the latter property's blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc, called Maya, that excites him the most. As he expands his current 63-acre vineyard and makes plans to build a rammed earth winery (designed by Howard Backen), he sees all kinds of possibilities for Continuum.

"We'll grow as the vineyard permits," he says. It's now a 1,500-case operation that he hopes will grow six-fold. Using blends of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, he has a pair of outstanding vintages from 2005 (93, \$130) and 2006 (95, \$140). The style is unmistakably Mondavi's. Along with samples from 2007 and 2008, these wines are rich and dense, yet supple and elegant, sharing the weight and proportion of the Mondavi Reserve wines that Tim oversaw.



Tim Mondavi (center) is making wine at Continuum with sons Dante (left) and Carlo.

