

THE ULTIMATE | *WEEKEND RETREAT*

AMID THE VINES

A WINEMAKING COUPLE
COMMISSIONS A
LUMINOUS ESCAPE
THAT EMBRACES
THE NAPA VALLEY
LANDSCAPE.

ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIOR DESIGN BY RICHARD HALLBERG
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MAX KIM-BEE
WRITTEN BY DOUGLAS BRENNER

“SYMMETRY IS CALMING, AND IT'S A CLASSIC, UNDERSTATED WAY TO MAKE DISPARATE THINGS FEEL ANCHORED.”

Old barn beams give the great room a sense of scale and history. Sofas, armchairs, and coffee table, Formations. Mirror and pedestal table with custom top, Dennis & Leen. French 1950s sconces. Art, Edward Dugmore. OPENING PAGES: Lanterns, Dennis & Leen. Planters, Formations.



Wipe-clean leather makes dining chairs practical. Chairs, Formations, in Kravet leather. Table, Formations. Curtains in Sanderson linen. OPPOSITE: Sofa, chairs, and lamp, Formations. Custom ottoman in Edelman suede. Stool, Keith McCoy & Associates.

NAPA VALLEY WINEMAKERS ROBERT ADLER AND HIS WIFE, ALEXIS DEUTSCH ADLER, DESCRIBE THE CABERNET SAUVIGNON THEY PRODUCE AT THEIR

ADV vineyard as approachably elegant, with structure, balance, and a mesmerizing finish. But without changing a word, the Los Angeles-based couple might as well be describing the weekend getaway that Richard Hallberg created for them at the heart of their property. His all-embracing indoor-outdoor design—a subtle blend of architecture and decorating—feels as rooted in the region’s fertile “Rutherford dust” as the ADV vines, and like a fine vintage, its full complexity emerges only as it breathes.

Airy, luminous interiors were a must. “There’s something calming about seeing rows of grapes meet the rolling forested knolls. It’s like a Japanese print,” says Alexis, a painter. Although they both call the place “Zen,” the Adlers’ personal style is far from austere. They love to cook, and their informal dinner parties flow effortlessly in and out of a chef-grade country kitchen. Long-time collectors, they display art for everyday enjoyment, and savor the changeable chiaroscuro of Napa sunlight. They prize sensuous textures and casual ease—“This is a barefoot house,” Robert says. And their three dogs romp in the mud outdoors before dozing by the hearth.

Hallberg’s sensitivity to local character shows in the low, barnlike profile, an-

Cabinet doors disguise refrigerators, ovens, and wine storage. Custom island, pot rack, and hood. Range, Wolf. Stools, Dennis & Leen, in Great Plains fabric. Limestone walls and floors, Exquisite Surfaces. Antique and vintage faience and pottery.



tiqued siding, and salvaged beams that give new construction the trustiness of an old farmhand: "I wanted it to look as if my clients had bought an historic structure and converted it into something incredible." He and his design director, Brad Clark, tempered patina with a muted palette and tailored furnishings with a restraint that steers clear of hokey rusticity while deferring to the verdant landscape. Orderly vine rows and natural terrain are echoed in the play of geometric patterns with organic shapes: The great room's wooden trusses span meandering cowhide rugs; the kitchen's sharp limestone island faces a wall built from rugged chunks of the same stone.

Symmetrical arrangements unify the interior. "It's calming," says Hallberg. "And a classic, understated way to make disparate things feel anchored." So, too, is a mastery of proportion. High-backed chairs bring a cozy scale to the lofty great room. A four-poster stakes out an inner sanctum within the high-ceilinged master bedroom.

Another aesthetic foundation is stone paving that stretches from the front steps through various rooms and out onto the rear patio. The continuity blurs boundaries as effectively as sliding French doors that vanish into wall pockets. The patio itself is as comfortably appointed as any space indoors. Cushy banquettes at either end of the lap pool bracket stone fire pits. "You feel like you're camping when you sit out there at night, with stars and flames reflected in the pool," Alexis says. Hallberg agrees: "The two best luxuries in life are the sound of water and the flicker of a fire." A mesmerizing finish to any day. □

FOR RICHARD HALLBERG'S DECORATING TIPS, SEE VERANDA.COM

Recessed shelves unify eclectic displays. Bed, Formations. Chair and ottoman, Dennis & Leen, in Randolph Alexander linen. Armoire and custom cabinet, Formations. Sculpture (on pedestal), Claire Falkenstein. OPPOSITE, LEFT: Armchairs, Formations. Chandelier, Mulligan's. Vintage African coffee table, Ottoman, Richard Shapiro Antiques, in vintage kilim. OPPOSITE, RIGHT: Tub, The Water Monopoly. Lantern, Dennis & Leen.



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Built-in stone banquettes blend seamlessly into the landscape. Chaises and armchairs, Formations, in Chella fabric. Stone window frame and console table, Formations. Antique millstone on stand, J.F. Chen.