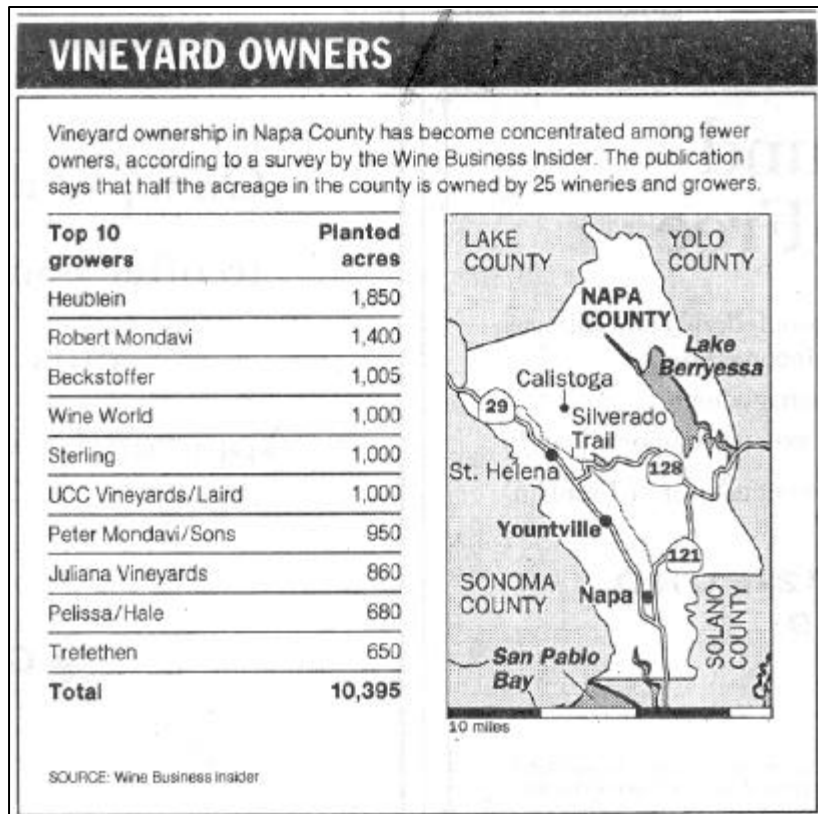


# A few wineries reign in Napa

Publication says half the acreage is in the hands of 25 grape growers

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Half the wine-grape acreage in Napa County is owned by 25 wineries and growers, according to a survey by an industry newsletter.

The Wine Industry Insider said the concentration is the smallest since 1980. During the past 13 years, the publication said, about 40 companies controlled half of the valley's acreage.

The Insider attributed the change to wineries expanding their plantings in order to control supply, grower partnerships widening their holdings and marginally profitable companies selling their vineyards.

Heublein owned the most vineyards, with 1,850 acres between its Beaulieu and Christian Brothers. Robert Mondavi followed with 1,400.

Independent grower Andy Beckstoffer followed as No. 3. He has collected 1,005 acres in total from just 350 acres in 1988.

Louis M. Martini dropped out of the top ranks due to the sale of two key vineyards

to Beringer and Beckstoffer. In 1988, the winery was No. 8 among vineyard owners.

The Insider also pointed out that small vineyards continue to thrive in the area, however. It said about 65 percent of the county's vineyards are at most 40 acres in size.