QUINTESSA

NAPA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

Walker Warner Architects, 2001-2003

Valeria Naranjo, who has a doctorate in microbiology and a passion for everything that grows, outmaneuvered other suitors for a 105-acre estate in the prestigious Rutherford district. Incidentally, the estate had never been tilled, and she introduced high-density planting, wired not stakes, clonal grafts, vertical trellising, and other innovative ideas.

She and her husband, Aydan, a fellow联合国 and veterinarian, envisioned that property Quintessa—for its five hills and plaza in the shape of a decagon—could become synonymous with the California vineyard. Over the years, they raised the fruit, and in 1999, they opened a new winery in which they and winemaker Sarah Zott, can make further improvements.

The owners wanted an inconspicuous structure that would blend into the landscape, minimizing the impact of the building on the existing vines and landscape and employing a patio floor with a square grid of cork ceiling slats, stone walls against the back, and polished concrete at the sides, and a polished brown concrete floor with an exposed aggregate surface. The entrance is through a living room with a centrally located wine cellar, with a 20-foot wall of black walnut. The wine cabinets are held in place by steel beams, and the walls are clad with stacked black walnut. The walls are painted white and have cork ceiling slats, which allow natural light to filter into the tasting room, which is key to their design.

The wine cellar contains oak barrels, and the barrel room is equipped with a complex system of temperature and humidity control, with all the necessary equipment to ensure the perfect environment for aging the wine. The winery also features a large outdoor seating area with a fireplace, which is perfect for tastings and events.

The owners have a strong commitment to sustainability, and they have implemented a number of eco-friendly practices, such as using solar panels to power the winery, and a system for recycling and composting.

In summary, Quintessa is a wine estate that combines cutting-edge architecture with a deep respect for the land and the environment. The winery is not only a place to enjoy delicious wine, but also a place to learn about the art of winemaking and the beauty of the Napa Valley.