



A sommelier loved one of the wines so much that she got its label tattooed on her arm.



Owner Anja Clarke.

## Sharing a deeply rooted passion for great wine

California Wine ApS imports wines from highly-acclaimed, small Californian wineries, supplying restaurants, wine bars, speciality wine shops and connoisseurs in Denmark and Europe. Their carefully chosen selection has made a deep impact in their trusty clientele – so much so, that there is a sommelier in Copenhagen with one of their wine labels tattooed on her arm.

By Ndéla Faye | Photos: Asger Zangenberg

Having travelled as a professional tennis chair umpire for 12 years, Anja Clarke made a huge career leap and set up California Wine after realising that the wine selection in Denmark was very limited, often very pricey, and had a heavy focus on European wines. “I’ve lived in California for 15 years, and my family and I would often drive to Central Coast to visit the many small vineyards there. Having been exposed to so many amazing different wines over the years, I wanted to see some of that back in Denmark, and had the idea to set up a wine importing business,” says Clarke.

Now, the company supplies restaurants, wine bars and specialty wine shops in Denmark and Europe with the best wines

directly from small and medium-sized wineries in California. Clarke’s business has a strong focus on quality rather than quantity. “Most of our wines are not available anywhere else in Europe – or the world – and we are proud to offer fair prices. We personally know each of our producers, and we can vouch for the quality of their product,” Clarke explains.

Clarke travels between Copenhagen and California regularly, which gives her the distinct advantage of being able to stay in the loop on the latest trends and up-and-coming producers. “We only sell wines that we appreciate and are happy to share with others. A sommelier loved one of the wines we supply to her bar and restaurant, Nærvær on Christianshavn,

so much that she got the wine’s label tattooed on her arm,” she laughs.

“We have a laid-back Californian attitude: as long as you have good company, good food and a good time, you can enjoy it any way and anywhere you like – especially on the beach! We’re proud to know the stories behind our wines and the hands that craft them, and because of our deep-rooted passion and personal connection to the wineries, we are able to offer some of the best and most unique wines from California,” Clarke concludes.



Web: [www.californiawine.dk](http://www.californiawine.dk)