

Juan Contreras  
Art Institute of California Los Angeles  
10234 Julius Ave  
Downey, CA 90241

Regulations and Rulings Division  
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau  
Attn: Notice No.55, P.O. Box 14412,  
Washington DC 20004-4412

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a current culinary student at the Art Institute and have had the privilege to visit and experience the Semler Malibu Estate vineyards and confirm for myself why their property should be recognized as a viticulture area. The 2000+ acre estate is five miles inland from the famous Malibu beach, 1,500 feet up in a secluded canyon in the Malibu hills, and behind a 1,800-foot ridge putting it on the map for ideal climate exposure. It is apparent that soil and climate are ideal for this particular vineyard since this Malibu estate stands apart a transition zone straddling the divide between the well-watered northern part of the state and the arid south, a place where the sea breeze cools the property overnight and where the mountains help to encompass the arid hot climate during the day. It is evident that the geography and terroir denotes the special characteristics that bestows the embodied qualities that go into producing this wine since the terrain created by the canyons and mountains, offers no threat of inclement weather.

Besides exploring the property I was privileged to try the wines being produced by Semler and let me tell you, they definitely know what they're doing. I'd have to say that the most striking wine I tasted there had to be their 2000 vintage Cabernet Sauvignon which seemed to have given them an outstanding crop. With a warm spring and summer allowing concentration and ripeness of fruit flavors, and adding to the deep color complexity, Semler Estate is capable of producing clean, high quality fruit which clearly resonates in this wine. Carrying hints of black currant, chocolate, and ripe tannin structure add to a good balanced finish. I cannot say more that what I saw and experienced at my visit to Semler Malibu Estate, but I do know that it is an accomplished and ideal location for a vineyard worthy of being identified and rewarded with its own AVA, so that in the future it may be distinguished among its fellow winemakers.

Sincerely,

Juan Contreras