



By Zahid Sardar Photos by Elena Dorfman

Four years ago, Leslie Rudd, owner of Dean & De Luca, purchased Oakville's 1978 vintage 54-acre Girard Winery (now renamed Rudd Estate) as a complement to his exclusive cheese and paté business, and quickly recognized the need for a cave big enough to store barrels, to showcase an archive of cabernets and chardonnays and for parties. By tunneling between old oaks, deep into the red earth beneath the winery, to form a 22,000-square-foot H-shaped cave, Rudd metaphorically brought the alchemy of wine-making full-circle. San Francisco architect Olle Lundberg supplied terraces of Cor-ten steel (planted with creeping rosemary), that surround the cast-concrete entry ramp and blend into the oxidized earth. It is a kind of "ode to artist Richard Serra," says Lundberg. More steel (Lundberg's arched Cor-ten entryway fitted with water-jet-cut plate glass doors; laser-cut steel shelving for bottles), and polished concrete floors contrast handsomely with the bumpy, white-walled rusticity of the 19-foot-high cave interior. ☛

# Full Circle

