

THE WINE Enthusiast



Many people say they like to sip wine in diverse and interesting locations around the world. For Joe Endyke, of Derry, that would be an understatement.

Endyke and his wife, Melanie Poulin, were one-time Peace Corps volunteers — a pursuit that took them around the globe. It was something that continued during their life together. The oldest of their four children was born in Liberia, and together they've traveled from Anguila to China to Korea to Africa to the Caribbean, among a large number of other far-flung locations.

Endyke, now the president of the Lawrence, Mass.-based National Sales Associates, has hiked the Grand Canyon and Denali, in Alaska. His journey into wine enthusiasm, however, started a little closer to home, and grew out of the search for something new.

"When you're young, you drink beer, and I was losing the desire to do that," he says. "We started enjoying wine with dinner, so now we have our glass of wine or two every night."

When they do stock up, the couple heads straight for the New Hampshire Liquor and Wine Outlet in Derry — a detail that Endyke made a specific point of emphasizing.

"Nancy, Harry and Candace, who has since retired, are very good-natured, generous people," he says of the people who act as his wine advisors. "At one point I had shoulder surgery and they wouldn't let me try to lift a case of wine. They carried it to my car, and they didn't have to do that. They go above and beyond the call of duty every time."

Endyke and his wife lean toward California Cabernets, which made for a perfect match of taste and opportunity, when they recently opened a bottle of **Smith & Hook's Cabernet Sauvignon**.

ABOUT THE WINE. Smith & Hook Cabernet Sauvignon comes from the Santa Lucia Highlands, which are perched on the east-facing terraces of the Santa Lucia Mountain Range, just south of Monterey Bay on the California Central Coast. After the harvest, it is barrel-fermented in French oak for up to 10 months. Expect aromas of plum and black cherry, with flavors of blackberry, boysenberry, dark plums and mocha.

WHAT WAS THE WINE PAIRED WITH? "My wife and I had it with dinner at home. We were both celebrating our 65th birthdays and our 40th wedding anniversary, so we wanted to do something different. We had the wine with some Kobe beef burgers that were grilled with cilantro aioli and some roasted peppers and lettuce. We also had a salad and I made my own dressing with lemon juice, toasted walnut oil, and herbs and spices."

TELL US ABOUT THE TASTING EXPERIENCE. "I like California Cabernets, so this was right in our wheelhouse. It was a 2016, which is a good year for California Cabernets, so it was a very nice wine. The bottle itself was very attractive. As for the wine, it was very full-bodied and a little on the dry side. That's kind of how we rate wines — whether they're too sweet or dry or smooth, and this one was very smooth. It had a nice nose to it, and like I said, it was very smooth and dry on the tongue afterwards. It had a longer finish, so it went great with the meal."

WHAT'S THE TAKEAWAY? "When I buy wine, I pay attention to the price. I don't buy (expensive) bottles of wine, because we have wine just about every night. We don't go crazy on it, so I thought the Smith & Hook Lucia Cabernet Sauvignon was a really good value. It's a daily drinker — something you can have just about every day and it will go with just about everything. That's what I look for and that's what this was. It was very good."



2016 Smith & Hook Lucia Cabernet Sauvignon

#39691 • 750 mL • Regular: \$22.99 • **Sale Price: \$19.99**