

# Napa Valley Register

**PAUL FRANSON** | What's Upvalley

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## First Marilyn Monroe Centerfold

The infamous first-ever centerfold image of the inaugural issue of Playboy now graces the label of the Velvet Collection 2003, a blend of Napa cabernet sauvignon and merlot.

It comes in a sealed, individually-numbered gift box with a cut-out window that shows a discreet Marilyn wearing a red, sparkling, strategically-placed wrap. Once she arrives at her destination, the sparkling wrap -- which is on a clear plastic overlay -- can be peeled back to expose the original photograph, though I suspect that would destroy the bottle's value as a collectible.

The winemaker is John McKay, and Marilyn Wines is owned by Robert and Donna Holder. The Velvet Collection 2003 is available in a 1.5-liter bottle in a gift box for \$225 from MarilynWines.com, 866-MMWINES or at Napa Wine Company's Cellar Door in Oakville.