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WINE, ETC.: WHY TO GIVE CALIFORNIA'S LODI WINE REGION ANOTHER CHANCE

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In three decades of writing about wine, we probably mentioned California's Lodi region a few times and always with zinfandel. Although the region has had vineyards since the mid-19th century and has been an American Viticultural Area since 1986, it wallowed in a dismal reputation ascribed to jug wines, Tokay and dessert swill. What quality grapes it produced — and there were a lot — were blended into Napa and Sonoma county wines.

Today, Lodi — a vast region of Central Valley east of San Francisco — is considered an emerging wine-growing region.

Here are some interesting Lodi wines to discover:

- **Plungerhead Unoaked Chardonnay 2016** (\$14). The absence of oak in this wine provides a clean and pure fruit character with tropical fruit aromas and apple and lime flavors.

PLUNGERHEAD / UNOAKED CHARDONNAY