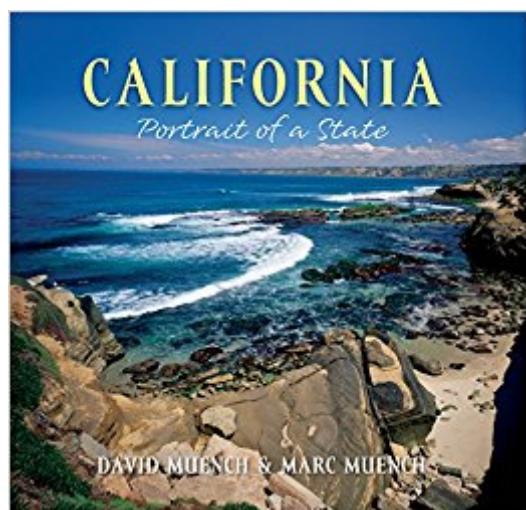


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# California: Portrait Of A State (Portrait Of A Place)



## **Synopsis**

It's all here: the fruitful cornucopia of the Central Valley and the solitary ancient pillars of redwood old-growth forests; the soaring granite cliffs of Yosemite Valley and Death Valley's heat-blasted wastes; the sun-drenched, flowering meadows of the High Sierra and breathtaking sunset sky canopies reflecting off coastal mists. The Muenches apply their decades of on-location photographic skills to the making of interpretive views embracing all aspects of California's primal myths and realities. Among the one hundred powerful, evocative color plates within these pages, you will find a California that sings of the breadth and depth and soaring heights of the American spirit.

## **Book Information**

Series: Portrait of a Place

Hardcover: 112 pages

Publisher: Graphic Arts Books; Photographic, with dust jacket edition (November 1, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 155868848X

ISBN-13: 978-1558688483

Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.6 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 31 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #459,780 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #28 in Books > Travel > United States > California > General #251 in Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Nature & Wildlife > Landscapes #475 in Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Nature & Wildlife > Plants & Animals

## **Customer Reviews**

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David Muench is a master professional photographer with more than 50 books, countless exhibits,

magazine articles, and countless images that merely point to his life work in large-format photography which has become a benchmark in American landscape photography. California is where David grew up and lived for many years. David presently lives near Albuquerque, NM. Marc Muench, David's son, has established his own right in the field of landscape photography. He has a number of book titles to his credit, and shares credits with his father in this Portrait series book. Marc lives near Santa Barbara, CA with his wife, Stephanie.

The book is beautiful and I'm happy to give it as a gift to my friend's mother who is visiting from another country. Beautiful photos. One warning: sometimes books from aren't in perfect condition. They are obviously new but damaged in some way. This one has dents on the bottom of the book. This has happened through multiple times with bent covers or dented corners. I miss bookstores where you can inspect books personally. Otherwise, great gift!

I own and have thoroughly enjoyed all of James Lawrence's books. California is my home state and I've been up and down her coastline, in her valleys, and lived in the beautiful SF Bay Area. She has a lot to offer every person. You haven't lived if you have never stood on one of her beaches and been bathed with the golden glow of a sunset. It can give you the feeling that people talk about when they meditate. The photography is by the best photographers ever born. They are David Muench and his son, Mark. A few photographs are by Zandria Muench Beraldo. The photographs take you from the coastline on the west to the Sierra Mountains in the east and many places in between. Some of these places look so remote that you think maybe no one, but them, ever set foot there. If California was a beautiful woman, the photographs would show that she wears lush colors in her diversified landscapes. This is a hardback book with 144 colorful photographs on 144-pages. There are four areas covered: Mountains, Oak and Grass, the Coast, and Deserts. At the back, you will find a large, colorful map of this great state. Why should you have this book? The contents have many things to enjoy, besides the photographs. James Lawrence shares his knowledge on some of California's history to support his premise of how this state brings "promise and fruition" to many people. Then, he draws you into his story with details of a personal journey over California that he and a best friend, Marty Alameda, takes while flying in their hang-gliders and then their ultra-light planes. Want to see what an ultra-light plane looks like? Look at the picture on the back cover of the book showing James happily flying very high in his. His stories give us details about the dangers of flying in these vehicles and why caution is so important. You read about close calls and the humorous tales of the things that can happen when on a journey with a good friend. There's a

peaceful moment with a daughter. James has a great gift for writing. You begin to read his book, but after a short time, his descriptions have you there with him and Marty and you see what they saw at that time. If you don't know California, you will when you finish and understand why she's a great state.

Photos are lovely. My only gripe is fog and mist partially obscure many of the photos. While atmospherically interesting, this makes it difficult to get an accurate read on the subject matter, especially for an amateur painter hoping to base paintings on these photos.

I love California so I loved the book!

Beautiful! I gave this to my study abroad 'parents' and they loved it. So many gorgeous, clear, bright photos. I would buy prints of pretty much any of the photos in a heartbeat and now want to see more of CA. Moreover, it was a great way to show off my home state to people that don't speak English and haven't seen California.

This wonderful book was a gift and the recipient loved it as did I. Beautiful, stunning photography and it covered many miles of coastline. I recommend this for a gift or for your own reading pleasure.

Great for sending to a New Yorker who would like to see California.

Lovely photos

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