



CLAY BROCK
DIRECTOR OF WINEMAKING

Clay Brock likes to kid that he was destined for a life in agriculture: at age seven his father, the vineyard manager for famed San Francisco confectioner Harry See, arranged for him to weed the sod roof of the See's Napa Valley home. "I was paid handsomely," Clay recalls with a chuckle, "three dollars a day."

Through his teen years, Clay helped his father during the summers and holidays in the Christian Brothers' St. Regis Vineyard in Napa Valley, just down the road from Justin Siena High School, where he played football, basketball and excelled at track.

Clay continued to follow in his father's footsteps and enrolled at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo to pursue a degree in Agricultural Business Management. While at Cal Poly Clay fell in love with the splendor of California's Central Coast.

After earning his degree, Clay and the love of his life, Karen, returned to Napa Valley; they married the following year. Karen began work at Robert Mondavi Winery and her love of the wine business inspired Clay to return to his roots. In 1985, Clay returned to the wine industry when he joined Corbett Canyon Winery. His education in winemaking had begun. "I realized that the coolest job in a winery is that of winemaker," recalls Clay. His odyssey toward achieving that goal began by the old-world tradition of advancing within the industry, from hospitality, to bottling, to the cellar, to the lab. His mentors were the knowledgeable and generous winemakers at Corbett Canyon, and later at Ken Brown and at Byron Winery. In 1997 Clay's determination was rewarded with a position as Winemaker at Edna Valley Vineyards, which allowed him to return to his beloved San Luis Obispo with his wife and two daughters.

In 2001, Clay became Vice President, Winemaker at Zaca Mesa Winery and tasked with assisting them in perfecting Rhone varietals. "While the daily commute was daunting, it was an opportunity I could not pass up," he explains. "It was an occasion to put to use the culmination of my skills and make a valuable contribution to an iconic property."

In 2008, when he learned that Wild Horse Winery & Vineyards was seeking a Director of Winemaking, he jumped at the chance. "I knew [winery founder] Ken Volk from Cal Poly, and admired his terroir driven



WILD HORSE
WINERY & VINEYARDS

wines. Wild Horse Winery & Vineyards also happened to be twenty minutes away from my house,” he adds with a smile, “that was also attractive.”

Clay quickly began contributing to Wild Horse Winery & Vineyards growth, and has future plans for expansion and improvements to the cellars. “In addition to the opportunity to craft wines in small lots,” he explains. “I want to explore and refine every style that I can.”

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