

JOHN KINNEY

FOUNDER & DIRECTOR OF WINEMAKING AT OCCASIO WINERY

WHAT IS YOUR WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY?

Tradition, purity, and provenance define our winemaking philosophy. We use time-honored techniques in crafting our wines, techniques developed over the centuries for expressing varietal character and terroir. Also, because we take great care at every step in the winemaking process, no chemicals aside from a minimal use of sulfites must be added to any of our wines. This assures a purity of expression that can be obtained no other way. Finally, we demand the provenance of everything we produce – knowing where everything that goes into our wines comes from and owning it. Even the brandy that goes into our port wines and vermouths is distilled in house.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE VARIETAL OF WINE?

Asking for a favorite varietal is like asking about a favorite child – it all depends on the moment. Still, I do show a little favoritism for Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc – two red wine varietals that have a rich history in our valley. As for white wine, I am partial to Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc, both of which do well here.

WHAT ARE SOME TRENDS YOU'VE NOTICED IN LOCAL WINEMAKING?

I see more winemakers paying attention to oxidation. Oxidation detracts from the expression of the fruit. Local winemakers are investing more time and money in limiting oxidative damage to their wines. This is a good trend, responsible for much of the improvement in wine scores and medal counts in Livermore wines.

BESIDES YOUR WINES, WHAT ARE A FEW OF YOUR FAVORITE WINES?

I like the wines of Mark Aubert, particularly his rather unusual interpretation of Carneros Chardonnay. I also like the wines of Celia Welch and Cathy Corison, both Napa Valley winemakers with different approaches to Cabernet. These wines are worthy of study, which is the highest compliment I can give a wine.

WHO WOULD YOU WANT TO SHARE A BOTTLE OF WINE WITH, LIVING OR NOT? AND WHY?

My father. He passed away too early – when Occasio Winery and Sidewinder Sprits were just dreams.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PLACE IN THE WORLD YOU'VE VISITED?

I traveled to many exotic locals for work. But I am drawn to a childhood place on the Wood River just south of Ketchum, Idaho. Fly fishing this little stretch in the evening, watching the sun set against the cliffs, and enjoying a glass of stream-chilled rosé and cold pizza at the end of it all – it doesn't get any better than this.



"My favorite part about the Livermore Valley is the great diversity of its climate, its soils, and its winemakers."

- John Kinney,
Occasio Winery



PROUD MEMBER OF THE
LIVERMORE VALLEY
WINEGROWERS
ASSOCIATION

OCCASIO WINERY

HONORING LIVERMORE VALLEY HERITAGE VARIETALS

Occasio Winery is committed to the heritage varietals of Livermore Valley, with a focus on small and micro lot wines, exclusively from Livermore Valley grapes. We craft fewer than 200 cases per varietal, so we can best achieve the most perfect balance and expression of the terroir of which we are so proud.

HISTORY

"I had always been fascinated with Livermore Valley. From the beginning, Livermore had been noted for producing some of the finest Bordeaux wines in the world. However, by the end of the last century, two large wine companies dominated the region; there was little to be excited about in the wines. I felt driven to rediscover the fabled Livermore Valley.

Occasio was founded in 2007. Named for the Roman Goddess of Opportunity, she comes in an instant, and then is gone forever. Knowing that my greatest regrets were for opportunities not taken, I felt this was a defining name for a winery. My passion is to produce fine wine, but with an emphasis on a style unique to Livermore Valley alone. Not Napa, nor Paso, but Livermore Valley. I'm dedicating my craft to preserve and nurture the Heritage varietals of the Valley." - *John Kinney*

WINES & VINES

"For thousands of years, the crafting of wine was intricately linked to history and culture as much as climate and soil. It explains why foods and craft wines of a region pair so naturally. Our wines are handcrafted. Time in the vineyard is extensive – walking, noting, analyzing, tasting, timing...

We hand harvest, we hand sort, we purposefully keep our production low to ensure nothing escapes our care. Our bottling line is so slow, you may even say we bottle by hand.

We craft less than 150 cases per varietal, marrying rich historical context with the nuances of our terroir. This approach maintains the utmost integrity of the terroir, and allows for us to create expressive wines with an indelible sense of place." - *John Kinney*



OCCASIO
WINERY

TASTING ROOM

2245B South Vasco Road
Livermore, CA
925.371.1987

info@occasiowinery.com
www.occasiowinery.com

Open Thursday – Sunday
12–5 PM



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