

STEVEN KENT MIRASSOU

SIXTH-GENERATION WINEMAKER & PROPRIETOR AT
THE STEVEN KENT WINERY

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT THE LIVERMORE VALLEY AS A WINE REGION?

My favorite part of Livermore Valley as a wine region is that our story is just now being discovered let alone being told...which makes it a very exciting place to be. While the Napa story has been and continues to be told at nauseum, the Livermore Valley wine community is just now figuring out what our capabilities are, what grows best, how we make better wine each year, and how we communicate our story to the larger world.

WHAT WINE VARIETAL DO YOU THINK IS UNDERRATED?

Cabernet Franc is, without doubt, the sexiest grape alive, and does not get the attention it deserves. It is also a variety that shows best when it is handled carefully, and made in a style appropriate to its flavor and aroma constituents and not just as a lesser Cabernet Sauvignon.

WHAT IS ONE OF THE MOST REWARDING THINGS ABOUT YOUR JOB?

The most rewarding thing about being a winemaker is to be able to take care of people and to bring a little bit of joy every day.

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

Chinon, Muscadet, Barolo/Barbaresco, French whites

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST FEAR?

Being six-barrels up in the cellar in the middle of an earthquake.

WHEN YOU ARE ALL WINE-D OUT, WHAT IS YOUR DRINK OF CHOICE?

The Chef's Gin & Tonic at Sabio Restaurant.

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

Key West & St. Emilion

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE TYPE OF MUSIC?

Bruce Springsteen



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- Steven Kent Mirassou,
The Steven Kent
Winery



PROUD MEMBER OF THE
LIVERMORE VALLEY
WINEGROWERS
ASSOCIATION

THE STEVEN KENT WINERY

WINES FOR THOSE WHO KNOW

Owned and operated by Steven Kent Mirassou, 6th generation winemaker, the winery specializes in the production of small lots of world-class Cabernet and Bordeaux varietals from Livermore Valley and is the home of Lineage.

HISTORY & WINES

"Most of my earliest memories are connected in one way or the other with my family's business. At 13, I started working disgorging sparkling wine, sweeping out warehouses, and driving forklifts. It was about this time, too, that I truly became aware of my family's history in the California wine business, 5-generations of working the land and making wine.

Being part of a family that settled in Santa Clara County in 1854 and stayed there got me itching to see other parts of the world, so I left for college and graduate school on the East Coast and didn't come back to California to stay for 10 years. I studied literature and wrote a bit and read deeply in a few writers who seemed to see clearly into things and that is what I wanted to do when I was 18. The prospect of making wine didn't occur to me, and I know I didn't want to sell anything, most especially wine.

In 1992 my wife, June, and I came back to California from New Jersey with 2.5 kids and the need of a job. I started managing municipal street sweeping contracts for a small company and would occasionally get on a sweeper or power wash downtown parking garages. Traveling back and forth to Monterey through vineyards and strawberry fields to visit my mother stirred something inside. Maybe it was memories of childhood or some deep-seated affinity for growing things, but in 1996, I joined my father, and we started the Steven Kent Winery in the historic Livermore Valley.

Our first wines were very well received and were proof of our feeling that the Livermore Valley was as ideally suited as any growing area in the world to produce world-class Bordeaux varietals. Our brand grew, and I started making more and more different wines. The extraordinary quality of the 2007 vintage coupled with a hard-won sense of confidence in our vineyards and my winemaking offered me the opportunity to get back to that original impulse. In that year, Lineage was born.

Lineage is the wine that serves as my offering to the pioneering work that the previous generations of my family did, and a challenge to the next five generations of America's oldest winemaking family to create ever-greater, ever-more-beautiful wine."

- Steven Kent Mirassou, The Steven Kent Winery



TASTING ROOM

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Open 7 Days a Week
12-4:30pm



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