

DARCIE KENT

OWNER, FIFTH-GENERATION VINTNER & ARTIST AT
DARCIE KENT VINEYARDS

WHAT PROMPTED YOU TO PURSUE OWNING A WINERY?

I am a 5th Generation vintner and artist. Wine and art are a part of my blood and soul. My family immigrated from Switzerland to the Missouri River valley in 1875 and began planting grapes. In 1883 they opened the Alpine Winery that featured a cellar that was painted with murals by my great-great Grandfather. Growing up, my aunts and uncles would tell me stories of sweeping the peanuts off the floor and washing wine bottles. The Cellar operated as speakeasy during Prohibition, but it slowly ground to a halt in the 1960's. From the start my husband and I wanted to start it up again, but in Oregon or California. We purchased our first vineyard in 1996.

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

I love being able to have a gallery at the winery. I've sold over 170 paintings since we've opened in 2013 and I cherish being able to paint the vineyards and animals that surround us. I love this valley, its history of agriculture and ranching. I paint all our wine labels and in the past year we have developed "Give Back Wines" where the proceeds are given back to area groups: Dog Day Cabernet for our locally funded Valley Humane Society, Chute Out Chardonnay and Rodeo Red to support our Livermore Rodeo Stockmen's Association, Victories Rosé to support the breast cancer programs of Axis Community Health and Various wines to support the history and heritage of Lake Tahoe's Thunderbird Lodge.

WHAT WINE VARIETAL DO YOU THINK IS UNDERRATED?

Grüner Veltliner for sure. It was a varietal grown by our winemakers family in Hungary. When we started working with it, only 16 acres were planted in CA. It fills the glass with amazing aromas of white peach and guava, has wonderful acidity, lower alcohol and is one of the best food pairing wines I know. We've just released a Sparkling Grüner Veltliner from the same vineyard that has incredible pineapple guava on the nose and bracing minerality.

WHO DO YOU WANT TO SHARE A BOTTLE OF WINE WITH AND WHY?

I would share a bottle of my wine with my daughters Kailyn and Amanda, my mother Carol who passed away when she was only 50, her mother Adelia and Adelia's mother Rosa in the cellar of our family home in Missouri surrounded by our ancestor's murals and where friends drank wine before and during Prohibition. I'd love to trade stories of all these remarkable women who are apart of my life and memories

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

It would be high end Bourbon aged in new Canton Barrels from Missouri. I also use new Canton barrels for my signature DeMayo Chardonnay. Barrels are your spice rack that impart all kinds of flavors like vanilla, chocolate, cinnamon and spice. Canton brings a butterscotch and Carmel note that I love to the Bourbon and also to my Chardonnay.



"My favorite part about the Livermore Valley is how the entire community has come together recently to work towards making our downtown a wine country destination that locals, as well as, visitors will enjoy. It will be anchored by an upscale hotel, an expanded historical district, a Black Box Theater and a Science Center that will surround a park dedicated to our local Veterans and ranchers."

- Darcie Kent,
Darcie Kent Vineyards



PROUD MEMBER OF THE
LIVERMORE VALLEY
WINEGROWERS
ASSOCIATION

DARCIE KENT VINEYARDS

CELEBRATING THE UNION OF WINE, ART AND THE
NATURAL WORLD

Darcie Kent is dedicated to crafting limited production, single vineyard wines from the finest estate vineyards in the Livermore Valley. Much like the art she creates in her studio, each bottle of wine is a vibrant expression of the vineyard gracefully depicted on the label. Darcie Kent wines can be found only in the most selective restaurants and at her cellar door.

HISTORY

Darcie's great, great grandfather, Fritz R. Ruegsegger, came to America with his family from Switzerland in 1875 to pursue a career in winemaking. In 1883, Fritz's son, Darcie's great grandfather, Christian Ruegsegger started his own winery, the Alpine Winery, in St. Joseph, Missouri, which held bond #62 in the United States.

Along with managing the vineyards and all winemaking tasks, Christian hand painted his own wine labels. The Alpine Winery bottled its last wine in 1945, when hard times following the repeal of Prohibition forced the family to shut down operations.

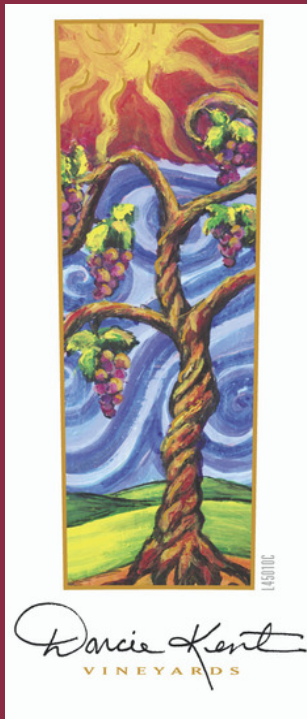
Darcie Kent now proudly carries on the family tradition as a fifth generation vintner and artist for the winery that bears her name, Darcie Kent Vineyards. Like her great grandfather before her, Darcie uses her original art for her wine labels and strives to capture the unique spirit of each vineyard and its owner, in her breathtakingly beautiful labels that grace each bottle.

WINES & VINES

Established in 1996, Darcie Kent Vineyards is a family-owned & operated winery in the Livermore Valley located East of the San Francisco Bay. Fifth Generation vintner/artist Darcie Kent and Hungarian-born winemaker Julian Halasz work in unison to handcraft small lot, single vineyard wines from sustainably farmed, family-owned vineyards in Monterey and the Livermore Valley.

In addition to the wines sold at our winery, Darcie Kent Vineyards has been gradually expanding to restaurants nationwide for the past three years so be sure to ask for Darcie Kent wines at your favorite restaurants!

In early 2013, Darcie and her family acquired the Estate Winery and Vineyard formerly occupied by Cedar Mountain Winery, and began a state of the art renovation. Now, all of us at Darcie Kent Vineyards are excited to invite you to visit our new home at 7000 Tesla Road in the scenic Livermore Valley.



TASTING ROOM

7000 Tesla Road,
Livermore, CA 94550
(925) 243-9040

info@darciekentvineyards.com
www.darciekentvineyards.com

Open 7 Days a Week
12:00 - 5:00



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