

MANN CELLARS

From our family to yours

About Mann Cellars



In 1978, Ruth and I purchased a 20 acre prune orchard at the south end of the Santa Clara Valley East of Gilroy. Our intention was to raise our children in the country and grow premium wine grapes. After building our home, we planted our first acre of wine grapes in 1982. Mannstand Vineyards became a reality. We were both working in San Jose while spending our weekends and holidays in the vineyard. Our tractor at the time was a Caterpillar 15. That was the year it was built. I was the one credited with teaching our daughters "vineyard vocabulary" as I tried to crank start a very obstinate tractor.

By 1994 we were harvesting our first Merlot block and had transitioned to a Geneva Double Curtain trellis system. We had learned to cane position, leaf pull, fruit thin and hand harvest our grapes and always look for ways to improve their composition and extraction. Our customers included wineries and home wine makers. Both our winery customers and our home wine makers were winning gold medals at major competitions with wine made from our grapes. It was time to take our "hard knocks" education in the vineyard to the wine business.

Mann Cellars produced its first wine in 1996. We were a custom crush operation, we grow the grapes, make wine in space rented from a bonded winery, bottle and distribute. As with Mannstand Vineyards, our philosophy is to produce highly extracted exceptional wines. We employ small lot fermentations and age our wines in new French and American oak.

Our Merlot is aged for two years in the barrel and at least one year in the bottle. Our Syrah is cold soaked and aged "sur lie" to promote a rich mouthfeel. Cabernet Sauvignon is crafted with a small percentage of Petite Verdot and Cabernet Franc to add spice and complexity to the finished wine. Johannisberg Riesling is made in the German tradition; the resulting wine has a floral nose, sweet-tart apple flavors and an apricot-honey finish. The port is made from Malbec and Merlot grapes from our vineyards. Future efforts will include a varietal Malbec.

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