

# STEWART



Stewart Cellars was founded in 2000 by Michael and Anne Stewart of Houston, Texas with a philosophy to consistently produce fabulous Pinot Noir and Cabernet Sauvignon from some of the finest vineyards in the Napa and Russian River Valleys.

## **Michael Stewart**

Born in Amarillo Texas, Michael Stewart graduated from Rice University in Houston, Texas with a degree in Electrical Engineering.

Michael founded Texas MicroSystems in 1975, and acted in various capacities of President, COO, and CEO. In 1999, he left Texas Micro in fall of 1999 after merging the company with Radisys Corp.

Following is long-time interest in wine, Michael formally entered the wine business in 2000, when he purchased a majority interest in Juliana Vineyards, a 3,400 acre property in the Pope Valley area of the Napa Valley. He started Stewart Cellars in 2000 with a small release of Pinot Noir and Cabernet Sauvignon

Michael and his wife Anne have two children, James and Caroline.

## **Winemaking**

Because we spend so much time searching for the perfect fruit, our winemaker, Paul Hobbs, takes great care in producing our Pinot Noir and Cabernet Sauvignon.

All of our vineyards are cultivated to Paul's specifications, with fruit dropped periodically throughout the growing season to ensure even ripeness and good concentration.

Paul picks our grapes only when they are at their peak and harvests on a row-by-row basis depending on when each row is ripe. He then hand-sorts the grapes on sorting tables, removing any unripe clusters.

Our wines are aged in French oak barrels, primarily new and none more than one year old. Paul never fines or filters and uses only native yeast fermentation.

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## **Paul Hobbs**

Paul Hobbs' fascination with vineyards began when his family first planted wine grapes on their upstate New York farm in 1969. It wasn't long before his father recognized his son's affinity for the work and put him in charge of the project. While attending the University of Notre Dame, Paul first experienced the world of wine, when his botany professor, a Christian Brother and former California winemaker, encouraged Paul to attend his weekly wine-tasting seminars. A passion was kindled that has led to a life-long career.

In 1975 he enrolled in the Master of Food Science program, Department of Enology, University of California at Davis. Under the direction of Dr. Vernon Singleton, Paul's master thesis on maturation in oak barrels drew considerable interest from the premium California wine community.

Robert Mondavi Winery soon hired Paul as a research technician. His goal though was to make wine, so Paul soon traded his research "whites" for cellarman "browns". Valuable hands-on production experience completed his apprenticeship, and in 1979 Paul was promoted to Enologist. Among other responsibilities Paul was assigned to the Opus One team, and in 1981 was appointed Head Enologist, a position he occupied for four years.

Paul joined Sonoma County's historic Simi Winery in February 1985, as Assistant Winemaker. One of his first tasks was to author a new cabernet sauvignon style for the winery. Extended macerations and gentle handling of the fruit resulted in rich, supple wines that caught the attention of the press and wine-buying public alike. He was appointed Vice-President/Winemaker in 1989, giving Paul his first opportunity to direct the winemaking program for a major premium California winery.

Intrigued by the potential of other New World wines, Paul toured the wine-growing regions of Chile and Argentina in 1988, where he met Nicolas Catena. Catena invited him to return to Mendoza in 1989 to take charge of a new project making Argentina's first world class chardonnay. An irresistible challenge, this experience provided the catalyst for Paul to strike out on his own. He currently has his own winery, Paul Hobbs Winery, and a project in Argentina. He also is the consulting winemaker for wineries throughout the United States, Argentina, and Chile, including Stewart Cellars.

Paul has received many honors and awards, including "Most important winemaker in California" from the Quarterly Review of Wine in 2004 and "Winemaker of the Year" from the Connoisseurs' Guide to California Wine in 2000.