

WINEMAKER

# Gustavo A. Gonzalez



For over 20 years Mira winemaker and cofounder Gustavo A Gonzalez has been practicing his craft in the Napa Valley and around the world to critical acclaim. Gustavo has worked in California, Italy, France, Argentina and Brazil, establishing vineyards and producing wines in areas that never have before. His local knowledge and global perspective bring a highly experienced and creatively expansive approach to Mira's vineyard practices and wine making techniques.

Gustavo has a long and decorated history of making exceptional wines both at Robert Mondavi Winery and around the world. He was responsible for the 2001 Tenuta dell'Ornellaia "Masseto" Toscana which received 100 points from Wine Spectator. In fact, James Suckling of The Wine Spectator

described the 2001 Masseto as "possibly the best Tuscan red ever."

In his 17 years at Robert Mondavi Winery, Gustavo earned the title of Head Red Winemaker and established the Robert Mondavi Winery Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon as one of the leading Napa Valley Cabernets, consistently receiving Wine Spectator ratings of 95 or higher. He produced the best Sauternes style wine of the new world and raised the Pinot Noir program to cult status.

In Mira's infancy Gustavo's reputation provided us with unmatched access to the finest blocks of grapes in some of the Napa Valley's premier vineyards including Hyde Vineyard in the Carneros AVA and Schweizer Vineyard in the heart of the Stags Leap AVA. In a recent blind tasting of eight of the world's

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top wines from Bordeaux and the Napa Valley, the 2012 Mira Schweizer Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon took the top slot for Cabernet from the Napa Valley besting Screaming Eagle, Schrader To Kalon and Shafer Hillside Select.

With his superb craftsmanship and attention to detail, Gustavo has quickly established Mira as one of the top producers of small production single vineyard wines from the Napa Valley. In just the past year, Mira has received 90 plus ratings on 11 different wines highlighting both the breadth and quality of the winemaking.

Gustavo grew up with a love for winemaking that was developed through his family, and his interest in wine as a career stemmed in part from their agriculture business. Simply put, in Gustavo's mind wine was a way to be creative through agriculture.

Gustavo believes that there is always something new to learn in the pursuit of making the highest quality wine. Every vintage is different, and you have to understand how to adjust to those differences. His experience allows him to do that at a higher level, in Napa, a place with the unique combination of optimal climate and exceptional soils. Working in an area that creates some of the finest grapes in the world, his goal is to allow the innate spirit of those fruits to shine through in the wines Mira produces.

He takes great pleasure in the response from those who enjoy savoring Mira wines, but is even more excited about where we are headed and what the future holds for Mira. With the soon to be completed winery and tasting room at 6170 Washington Street just south of the town of Yountville in the heart of the Napa Valley, Gustavo sums it up simply, "the best is yet to come."