



September 2004

My philosophy as a winemaker is very simple and close to my heart. Although I have not been in this industry very long, it is obvious to me that the winemaking process starts in the vineyard. I have a fortunate and special opportunity, as a winemaker, to also be the viticulturalist for our Estate Vineyards. Because the main ingredient in wine is grapes, we can conclude that in order to produce outstanding wines one has to produce the best wine grapes.

As a young father, I associate raising children to growing great wine grapes. The start of every growing season represents a new birth in the vineyard. Every season is different than the last, every vintage builds a character of its own, with no two quite alike. Just as a child grows and develops each season, so does our vineyard. I believe that this intimate knowledge of the land, climate and our vineyards allows me to shape the grapes into the great wine they will become; just like I have the ability of guiding my children and helping them become outstanding people.

The life cycle continues as the grapes enter the winery and go through metamorphic changes into young wine just as our children go through major changes as they enter their teenage years. The wine soars to new levels as it ages in the cellar, as do our children with nourishment and love while they grow in our homes. Finally the wine is bottled and it is released onto the market just as we have to release our children into the world. At this point as a winemaker and a father my authority becomes limited. My greatest hope is that in giving so much care and love in raising them they will have the strength and courage to handle life's certain challenges.

The philosophy of taking a positive role in every aspect of my children's lives to create the best atmosphere for them to become successful and responsible adults follows me into the vineyard early every season. This is my passion, to positively influence every aspect of maturing our wine grapes and crafting them into unique distinctive wines. Thank you very much for your interest in our wines and for taking the time to read about our family and winemaking philosophy as we share a little bit about ourselves and how we produce a great wine and family atmosphere for all to enjoy!!!!

Kindest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Heringer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mike Heringer

37375 NETHERLANDS RD. • CLARKSBURG, CA • 95612
PHONE: (916) 744-1094 • FAX: (916) 744-1153