

## MIKE CRUMLY

Vice President, Vineyard Manager

Mike Crumly is a seeker of truth. As the longtime vineyard manager of Gloria Ferrer Champagne Caves, he has devoted more than two decades to the study of soils, clones, rootstocks and microclimates on the winery's Carneros estate, with the goal of cultivating grapes that taste of true vineyard character.

A native of California, Crumly holds a degree in zoology from U.C. Santa Barbara and a degree in viticulture from U.C. Davis, where he also studied enology. Postgraduate research in canopy management with the renowned viticulturist Dr. Mark Kliever and subsequent vineyard work in New Zealand further shaped his winegrowing philosophy—one that is defined by a commitment to nurturing balanced vines.

Crumly, along with his partner in winegrowing Winemaker Bob Iantosca, has had the unique opportunity of planning and tending the balanced vineyards of Gloria Ferrer from the ground up. "When I joined Gloria Ferrer in 1986, there were 40 acres of vineyards planted to one-year-old vines that were sticking out of milk cartons," remembers Crumly. Today, he oversees the winery's 335 acres planted to diverse blocks of Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Merlot and Syrah.

Over the years, Crumly and Iantosca's collaborative partnership has evolved with the land in their care. "We've matured with the vineyards and that has had a tremendous impact on our ability to cultivate the highest quality fruit from balanced vines," asserts Crumly. The two also have become expert in the evaluation of wine grape clones. In 1988, Crumly planted the winery's first of three clonal trials of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay in conjunction with U.C. Davis. Their groundbreaking research into these classic Champagne grapes has had a profound effect on the increasingly expressive sparkling and still wines of Gloria Ferrer.

Crumly, who maintains a "genetic library" vineyard with examples of every clone he has studied since the first trial, has spent years meticulously matching Pinot Noir and Chardonnay clones to the vineyard sites that will allow for naturally balanced vines. The diversity of growing conditions within Gloria Ferrer's Estate Vineyard and Circle Bar Ranch has further encouraged him to practice what he calls "micro-vinification"—a winegrowing technique that has the team studying the nuances within vineyard blocks, and then harvesting and fermenting these subtleties in small lots.

"My goal is to cultivate as many distinct vineyard lots as possible, so that Bob has the most complete array of flavors, aromas and varietal characteristics with which to make his wines," explains Crumly. In a more than 20-year career defined by a passion for science, tireless clonal research and an intuitive relationship with nature, this mission continues to inspire Crumly's zeal for winegrowing that is true to its roots.

### AT HOME WITH MIKE CRUMLY

CRUMLY SPENDS MUCH OF HIS LEISURE TIME FLY-FISHING WITH BOB IANTOSCA AND HUNTING DUCK AND PHEASANT IN THE SONOMA BACKCOUNTRY. HE LIVES IN SONOMA WITH HIS WIFE, MAUREEN, AND THEIR CHILDREN, THOMAS AND TERESA.