



MICHAEL SCHOLZ

WINEMAKER, ST. SUPÉRY

Michael Scholz is a sixth-generation winemaker from Australia's famed Barossa Valley. His storied career began on his family's estate, the Willows Vineyard, in the 1980s. He completed his Bachelor of Science in Oenology in 1985 at Roseworthy, Australia's first agricultural college (now part of the University of Adelaide), and traveled the world honing his craft in France, South Africa and the United States.

He has spent over a decade at St. Supéry Estate Vineyards and Winery challenging himself year after year to express the full potential of the vineyards' worth of exquisite estate fruit. Scholz firmly believes that great wine begins in the vineyard, so when he first arrived at St. Supéry in 1996, he worked closely with the vineyard manager on an extensive replanting project to unite blocks with their ideal varietals, focusing on the classics of Bordeaux. Thanks to his vision, a signature style developed that has captured the imagination of wine lovers around the world. The Sauvignon Blanc has become a California benchmark, and in 1998, Scholz created the gracious Bordeaux inspired blend, Élu, with renowned wine consultant Michel Rolland. Of his friend and colleague, Rolland says, "Michael Scholz is on my list of great winemakers from around the world."

Scholz was away from St. Supéry from 2001-2009, and by the time he returned, he had fully mature vines with which to work from his replanting foresight in the late 1990s. Today, Scholz has a cellar full of the latest technology to help him in his quest to further harness the potential of Napa Valley estate fruit. From experiments in fermentation with various sizes, ages and toasts of oak barrels and even concrete to initiating a boutique winery within a winery program to separate micro-ferments down to a specific block, Michael Scholz is ever-evolving while keeping true to the great traditions of wine making. Other creative projects include successful attempts at brandy and cider-making.

Where once a Queen Anne Victorian stood among Napa Valley fruit and nut orchards today sits a world-renowned, state-of-the-art estate winery with a tirelessly innovative Vice President at its helm, himself once a tow-headed boy running through his ancestral vineyards on the other side of the world.

To know Michael Scholz is to enjoy a jocular, amiable man quietly driven to ever purer expression of his craft. Outside work, Scholz enjoys time with his wife and two children. This former Australian swimming and equestrian champion leads an active life swimming in a masters' group, biking through wine country and taking advantage of long days up at Dollarhide Ranch where there are plenty of fish in the lakes to catch and put on the barbecue for friends..

ST SUPÉRY
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