



KEVIN WARREN, WINEMAKER
"WE GROW WINE."

"My philosophy is that 80 percent of wine quality comes from the grapes," says Winemaker Kevin Warren, who passionately pursues his craft with talent and humility. "Jim Young makes every effort to grow the highest quality grapes, and the rest is up to me."

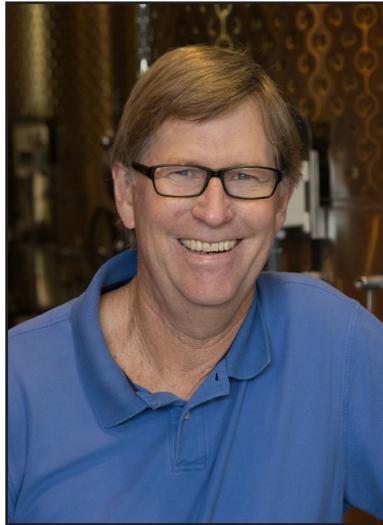
For Warren, who has been making the wines of Robert Young Estate Winery since 2001 vintage, a gentle approach is essential in premium winemaking. "My style is to handle the wine as little as possible," he notes. Grapes are lightly pressed, which results in lower yields, but higher quality, more flavorful juice from each ton of fruit.

Robert Young Estate Winery Chardonnay is crafted in a Burgundian style. "We age the chardonnay in French oak barrels for 14 months and use malolactic fermentation for complexity," explains Warren. "We also stir the lees to develop complexity while preserving the fruit."

Warren's approach with red wines involves picking the fruit when it is ripe, then cold soaking the fruit upon arrival at the winery for several days. This allows for a longer maceration in the earlier stages

of winemaking, rather than later, when the wine is higher in alcohol. The benefit of this method is more fruit and intensity in the middle body of the wine. The reds are aged for 26 months on average and always in 100% French Oak

Warren experiments with small lots and routinely separates blocks for analysis. But perhaps the most important benefit is the close relationship he enjoys with Vineyard Manager Jim Young. "I work with Jim all the time, and on a daily basis during harvest," he notes.



At Robert Young Estate, vineyards are tended on a vine-by-vine basis, and each vine is encouraged to produce fruit in balance. "Our winemaking begins in the vineyards and is sustained by the Young family's commitment to growing balanced vines," says Warren. "It is this dedication that allows us to make fine, handcrafted wines that are rich with fruit flavors and solidly structured."

With our signature wines getting better every vintage, Warren is looking to the future of our brand's evolution. He plans to continue experimentation with small lot, single varietal wines and loves the customer reception of these extra small bottlings thus far.