



ROBERT YOUNG ESTATE WINERY
The Winemaking Team

When the Young family of Robert Young Vineyards wanted to begin crafting wines from their world-class Alexander Valley grapes, they turned to Winemaker Richard Arrowood. The original winemaker for Chateau St. Jean, Arrowood began buying grapes from the Young family in the early 1970s. The relationship between the winemaker who believes wine is made in the vineyards and the grape growing family whose motto is “we grow wine” has flourished for more than three decades.

Hired to launch Robert Young Estate Winery, Arrowood remained the consulting winemaker until 2001. That year, the search began for a full-time winemaker for Robert Young Estate Winery. When the Young family met Kevin Warren, then working for Pezzi King, they knew they had found the talented winemaker to carry forth the tradition of excellence started by Arrowood.

Warren joined Robert Young Estate Winery in the spring of 2001. Together, Arrowood and Warren created a seamless transition from one winemaker to the next. “My winemaking style is reflective of the grapes grown,” explains Warren. “I believe the less the grapes are handled the better, so starting with the exceptional fruit of Robert Young Vineyards is an incredible opportunity as a winemaker.”

A graduate from the University of California at Davis, Warren earned a degree in fermentation science specializing in enology and viticulture. He launched his winemaking career at Charles Krug Winery, where he worked in the cellar and quality control lab, and later blended wines. It was some years later that Warren was introduced to Robert Young Vineyards, during his tenure as winemaker for Belvedere Winery from 1994 to 2000. He was deeply impressed by the Young’s commitment to quality.

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When Warren arrived at the Robert Young estate, his first job was to select all of the winemaking equipment for the newly constructed estate winery. "We wanted to be sure that Kevin had all of the necessary tools to make wines of distinction and style," says Fred Young, founding president of Robert Young Estate Winery.

Today, Warren crafts the wines of Robert Young Estate Winery, which include chardonnay; Scion, a red Bordeaux-style blend; and merlot. While blending the 2000 Scion with Arrowood, Warren recommended reserving the merlot to bottle on its own. The resulting 2000 Robert Young Estate Winery Merlot earned a gold medal at the 2003 Sonoma County Harvest Fair.

"Kevin has more than experience and remarkable talent," notes Fred Young. "He has the instincts of a master winemaker, and you can taste it in his beautiful, complex wines."