

Owners: Cam & Kate Baker **Winemaker:** Andy Smith **Vineyard Consultant:** Kelly Maher **Winery Mgr:** Colin MacPhail



Larkmead Vineyards History

1875 - Lillie 'Firebelle' Hitchcock Coit names her home 'Larkmead', (Coit Tower in S.F. named after her.) **1885** - St. Helena Star makes the first reference to a small wooden winery located at the Larkmead rail station as "Larkmead Cellar." **1906** - The wood winery is expanded to a larger, intimidating stone structure by F. Salmina & Co.

1937 - Under F. Salmina & Co. Larkmead offered varietal wines including a Cabernet and Zinfandel that took two "firsts" at the California State Fair; in the same year received a Diplome d'Honneur along with Beringer and Inglenook at the Paris Exposition.

1943 - The Napa Valley Vintners Association was formed by seven wineries - Beaulieu, Inglenook, Louis Martini, Mondavi, Napa Wine Co., Napa Valley Co-op and Larkmead. (There are now 350 active members.)

1948 - Kate Baker's father, Larry Solari, buys Larkmead winery and surrounding vineyards. **1958** - Due to health reasons, Solari sells the winery but keeps the vineyards.

1990's - Larkmead begins to make wine again under the direction of Paul Hobbs and Andy Smith. Andy takes complete control in 1999.

2006 - One hundred years after the stone Larkmead winery was built, a new Larkmead winery and tasting room are completed.

2008 - Andy Smith celebrates his 10th harvest with Larkmead with Robert Parker citing him as one of the "world's great wine consultants." Larkmead Vineyards celebrates its 125th Harvest.

Also: From *Bottled Poetry* by James T. Lapsley: Andre Tchelistcheff arrived in Napa in 1938, he recalled "four outstanding wine processing plants: Inglenook, Beaulieu, Larkmead and Beringer." Robert Mondavi echoed Tchelistcheff's sentiments by stating he was, "tremendously impressed [with] the big four of the California wine industry."

Today: Larkmead has approximately 110 acres under vine of which Cabernet is 60%, Merlot is 20% and the rest in Sauvignon Blanc, Cabernet Franc, Malbec, Petit Verdot, and a small patch of 120 year old Tocai Fruilano. As growers, Larkmead has contracts with some well known vintners such as Cakebread, Duckhorn, Merryvale and Chaim (Covenant), amongst others.

As vintners, all Larkmead wines are 100% estate grown.



Larkmead Cabernet Sauvignon

- 2002 - "fleshy, hedonistic, big, heady bouquet" 93pts RP
- 2003 - "lovely fruit, full-bodied, elegant and rich" 93pts RP
- 2004 - "outstanding richness, concentration and intensity" 93pts RP
- 2005 - "outstanding density, ripeness and overall harmony" 90pts RP
- 2006 - "full-body, stunning ripeness, sweet tannin" 94pts RP
- 2007 - "a great buy for a world-class Napa Cabernet" 94+pts RP

Larkmead Firebelle Proprietary Blend

- 2004 - "a soft, elegant, fruit driven sexy style" 91pts RP
- 2005 - "this is a beauty to drink" 91pts RP
- 2006 - "terrific aromatics, plush, succulent style" 91pts RP
- 2007 - "superbly textured, full-bodied, opulent red" 93pts RP