



PETER FRANUS · WINE COMPANY

PETER'S BIO

If there's a short way to describe Peter Franus and his winemaking, it's this: He takes his craft seriously, but not himself. He is a son of Connecticut and a product of Berkeley. He's a regular guy filled with Old World ethos, New World spirit, and with rock and roll. And he's a searcher who could not avoid his life's path. Wine called to Peter and he answered with his soul.



Peter grew up in Greenwich, Connecticut and headed in the late 1960s to the University of California at Berkeley, to explore the expanding, rebellious world. He graduated in 1971 with a degree in journalism, and with an awareness of something else that would define his life. He discovered Napa and the world of wine – not just the taste, but the connection to nature, the attention to detail in the winemaking, the feel of vineyards and wine country, and the bonds people had with their vineyards, the wine, and each other.

He enrolled in Fresno State's viticulture and enology program in 1978, then worked at a number of wineries before taking over as winemaker at Mount Veeder Winery in 1981. While he was still making Mount Veeder's wine, he fell in love with the zinfandel from that mountain. He started his own label in 1987 and left Mount Veeder Winery in 1992 to devote all his attention to what would become Peter Franus wine.

Since then, Peter's reputation as an acclaimed winemaker, and as one of the nice guys in the wine industry, has continued to grow. He's spent decades finding the best vineyards in the region, and with the help of friends and connections throughout Napa Valley, he's assembled a lineup of vineyards that speak to him and produce fruit he loves. And one of those very special places for him will always be the vineyards on Mount Veeder.

Peter says his first goal is to make wines that are delicious. He relies on intuition, experience and a minimalist approach to winemaking, and he believes that the more you manipulate and hover over a wine, the more you'll lose its unique personality and character. He's guided by his love of the vineyards he works with and of wines that have richness, complexity, harmony, and, most of all, that invite you back to discover something new with each taste.

Peter also consults for several other wineries that are getting their own raves and recognition. He lives with this wife, Deanne, in Napa and Sacramento, and besides his wife and winemaking, his other passion is running. Look for him in the early morning running through the parks and streets of Sacramento and Napa, or wherever his travels take him.