

Douglas Barden Margerum



Doug Margerum has been intimately involved in the Santa Barbara food and wine scene for over 40 years and is widely regarded as one of the pioneers promoting the uniqueness and quality of the region's food and wine. His food and wine explorations started at an early age while traveling with his parents in France. In 1981, Doug and his family founded the Wine Cask in Santa Barbara, which was a legendary restaurant known for its wine program and in 1994 became one of the 74 restaurants in the world to earn the coveted *Wine Spectator* Grand Award. Doug launched the Wine Cask Futures program in 1990 and owned and founded *Vita Nova Winery* with Bob Lindquist (*Qupé*) and Jim Clendenen (*Au Bon Climat*) in 1986. Doug sold the Wine Cask in 2007 after deciding to devote all of his energies to winemaking having started Margerum Wine Company in 2001.

Doug's philosophy is to return to winemaking's previous form of production – handcrafted and personal. Margerum produces limited quantities of wines made from grapes grown at the Estate Vineyard in the Los Olivos District and at top vineyards from around Santa Barbara County. The wines are made at their state-of-the-art winery located in Buellton.

Margerum produces M5 wines (Rhone-style varietal white and red blends), a co-fermented Syrah called Über, Sybarite Sauvignon Blanc, Riviera Rosé and other single varietals Rhone wines. The Margerum Estate Vineyard was established in 2016 with 10 Rhone varietals planted on 18 acres. In 2014, Doug released the Barden wines, which focuses exclusively on the terroir of the Sta. Rita Hills, sourcing fruit from top vineyards in the appellation and makes limited amounts of world-class, cuisine-friendly and age-worthy wines.

Doug has long been a fabric of the Santa Barbara community and through his long friendship with Julia Child, he sits on the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History Kitchen Cabinet, a board made up of leaders in the food and wine industry. Doug is also on the advisory board for the Julia Child Foundation and is currently the Treasurer for the Santa Barbara County Vintner's Foundation, the charitable arm of Santa Barbara Wine Country. Doug also consults and produces wines for several local wineries including Happy Canyon Vineyards and Paradise Springs Winery. Additionally, he created several popular negociant and private label programs for restaurants and retail all over the country including the labels for Riviera Wine Company, Valle de Inez and Diseño Wine Company.

Doug was recently nominated as Winemaker of the Year for the 23rd Anniversary of the Wine Enthusiast's coveted Annual Wine Star Awards, which honors individuals and companies that make outstanding contributions to the wine world.

