



## Featured California Winegrower: Steve Heringer Clarksburg (Sacramento River Region)

*"My passion is to continue the family tradition and history here in California agriculture."*

A moving black and white photo hangs over Steve Heringer's desk at his home ranch in Clarksburg. It features his parents. Fourth generation farmers. Standing among the last stalks of corn they ever harvested. On their faces, pride. Their hands, legacy. Their eyes, melancholy.

Steve admits it might have been easier some days to drive into town and get a job rather than keep farming the row crops the Heringers had grown for a century. But farming was in his heart. Petite Sirah in his future.

"If we were not in vineyards and winemaking it would be very close to impossible to attract the next generation back."

Just south of Sacramento's exploding metropolitan belt, Steve tends 220 acres of vineyards. Cool ocean breezes ride the Sacramento River and find their finale in the Elk Slough that borders his land. Chilly nights. A blessing for winegrapes.

"Petite Sirah does fabulous here."

Steve's tame approach to winegrowing helps. A former organic processing tomato grower, he understands sustainability. Viability. Wants his soil to be healthy. For generations.

He's already passing on the torch. Michael, the youngest of three, works on the ranch full time. He's a winemaker first. Viticulturalist second. In fact, all three of Steve's children are close to the operation. They're Heringers, after all. The five grandkids are all under four. You know Steve's working on them already.

"We really treasure our roots and we honor them with our continued presence."



**Former Occupation:** Farm credit  
**Hobbies:** Traveling, antiques  
**Wine Label:** Heringer Estates  
**Food and Wine Pairing:** Petite Sirah with beef or pork  
**Quote:** "It's hard to get romantic about tomato paste"