



Featured California Winegrower: Kim Ledbetter-Bronson Lodi Region

“What I really like about being a grower is the diversity of what I do every day.”

While she never learned to juggle in the traditional sense, it's what Kim Ledbetter-Bronson does every day. As if taking the helm of her family's large winegrape growing business in Lodi isn't job enough.

She's also mother of two young boys. Industry leader. Community innovator. Dedicated wife. And friend. It's a balancing act.

While she calls the plays in the business now, it helps to have strong roots. Kim's grandfather started Vino Farms 30 years ago. Her father and uncle followed close behind. The eldest of the Ledbetter children, Kim is the first of the third generation to join the business. She takes pride in continuing the Ledbetter legacy. It involves a focus on people, economics. And the environment. Certified sustainable practices. Integrated Pest Management. Cover crops. Owl boxes.

“The wine industry has a lot of people who are dedicated to the land and doing the best they can for the environment and the landscape, which we sometimes take for granted.”

Simultaneously complimenting the work of her predecessors, Kim is carving a place in the trade that's hers. Exclusively. She keeps her finger on the pulse of the industry. Stays involved with more than half a dozen organizations. Was the first chair of CAWG's foundation - offering scholarships to vineyard employee children. Makes sure her own employees are appreciated. Creates a work atmosphere that's passionate. And fun.

When she's not being the boss, a nurturing partner and mom, Kim enjoys dinner (and wine) with friends. A weeklong escape to the lake with her family. Summer sports. Or as is often the case, a much needed good night's sleep.



Kim is pictured with her brother Craig, left, and father John, right, and two boys, Ethan, 4, and Austin, 2.

Former Occupation: Wineries (Sebastiani, Byron)

Education: Cal Poly (agricultural business)

Quote: “I like to be in control.”

Not Afraid to Admit: She's never lived in the country

On the Winegrape Industry: Enjoys great “camaraderie”