



## Featured California Winegrower: Mike Sangiacomo Carneros, Sonoma County

*"I like the outdoors."*

From a tender age Mike Sangiacomo spent his most enjoyable hours frolicking in swimming holes along the lazy creeks and lush, majestic oaks that outline his family's ranch. It's what he loves most about farming the Carneros region of Sonoma County. This land has a powerful beauty. It's magic. It holds his memories.

Mike's grandfather bought the ranch in 1927. It was a fruit farm back then. The cool climate and dense, grey morning fog gave way to juicy pears. And crisp apples. Today, Mother Nature still charms. Between her graces and Mike's mindful viticultural practices, there's premium Chardonnay. Pinot Noir. Merlot. Cabernet Sauvignon. Plus a touch of Pinot Grigio and Syrah. It's all so good, more than a dozen wine labels feature the Sangiacomo Vineyard designation.



For Mike and the Sangiacomos, farming is about family. Nearly every member of the family, which emigrated from Italy in the early 1900s, has participated in the farm's daily operations. Still, every day they continue to honor their Italian roots. All the Sangiacomos gather together for breakfast and lunch at the original homestead. Every day. It's tradition.

"My grandparents set a really strong foundation on the importance of family."

Once a star athlete, Mike likes to stay active on and off the ranch. The former Santa Clara University tight end loves all sports. Basketball. Baseball. Badminton. Water skiing. He's an assistant football coach at Sonoma Valley High School. Plays in the men's basketball league in town. Craves competition.

Staying active is also easy with young children. Mike and his wife have three little ones. Ages two, four, seven. He cherishes the kid activities. The unforgettable milestones. Soon enough he'll show them how he too loved to build forts and find perfect wading spots on the ranch. His favorite, mystical Carneros land.

**Former Occupation:** Securities, Charles Schwab

**Favorite Wine:** Partial to Chardonnay, Pinot Noir (paired with Tri Tip), Merlot

**Education:** Santa Clara University (marketing, economics)

**On The Wine Industry:** It has a life of its own

**Passion:** Family