



Carina Cellars Backgrounder

Carina Cellars is the result of an avid wine collector with a dream who meets an accomplished winemaker with a vision. When attorney and businessman David Hardee and winemaker Joey Tensley met in 2002, they were quick to recognize the benefits of combining their passion. With Hardee's talent for business, Tensley's talent for wine making, and a shared belief in only the best, Carina Cellars was born.

Born and raised in Greenville, North Carolina, David Hardee first graduated from Washington and Lee University with a BS degree, and subsequently from Duke University Law School with a JD degree. He practiced law for ten years in Charlotte and another ten in Washington DC, before retiring from law practice and moving to California in 1996 to pursue entrepreneurial activities.

Joey Tensley began his wine career in 1993, working in the cellar at Fess Parker Winery. Moving on to positions of increasing responsibility at Babcock Vineyards and Beckmen Winery, Tensley launched his own brand, Tensley Wine Company in 1998. With both his own brand and Carina Cellars, Joey follows a philosophy of seeking out the best vineyards and the best growers in Santa Barbara County in order to produce truly great wines.

The goal at Carina Cellars is a simple one: to produce top-quality Santa Barbara County Rhône wines that showcase and emphasize terroir above all else. Hardee and Tensley partner with growers who share their philosophies on farming – a dedication to canopy management, low yields and vine balance. The winemaking approach is traditional and minimalist, with the resulting wines rich in traditional varietal flavors and aromas. Carina Cellars currently produce both vineyard designated and Santa Barbara County bottlings of Viognier, Syrah, Mourvedre and Grenache. Additionally, the winery produces a premium blend of the best of two appellations - Santa Barbara County Syrah and Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon known as "Iconoclast". Due to this unique partnership with a northern California vineyard, there is also a small bottling of Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon.

In addition to fine restaurant wine lists, Carina Cellars wines are available from specialty wine stores as well as direct from the winery. The wines can be tasted at Carina Cellars tasting room, located in picturesque Los Olivos, California.