

Tom Klein
Proprietor



Much like a prized Sonoma County grapevine, Tom Klein's roots grow deep in California soil. His family has been farming in the San Joaquin Valley, in and around the city of Stockton, for well over one hundred years. It was Tom's grandfather Sol, and Sol's two brothers, who began the Klein Family business in the early twentieth century (those three men are the siblings who are memorialized in the name of one of Rodney Strong's best vineyards, Brothers Vineyard). Tom spent his formative years working on the Klein Family ranches, doing

everything from picking tomatoes to driving a water truck, and a host of other tasks in between. Farming is not only in his blood, it's in his shoes and socks as well.

Tom attended Stanford University, graduating in 1973 with a degree in political science. He was also a star of the Stanford rugby team, which often brought him even closer to the earth. In 1979, Tom graduated from the Stanford Graduate School of Business. This may not seem the most direct path to owning a prestigious winery, but while working as a management consultant at McKinsey and Company Tom received an assignment to work with Rodney Strong Vineyards. The opportunity to meet Rod Strong, one of Sonoma County's winemaking legends, and Rick Sayre, another legend who would be winemaker for Rodney Strong Vineyards for an astonishing forty years, along with his burgeoning interest in fine wines, acquired while traveling the world for the family agricultural business Klein Brothers International, to which Tom had returned in 1984, led to the Klein family purchasing Rodney Strong Vineyards in 1989. Tom's feet were firmly in the soil of Sonoma County for good.

It's surely his family background in farming and his love of the land that inspires Tom to remark, "We are committed to quality in every aspect at Rodney Strong Vineyards; in producing top-flight wines, in sustainable business practices and carbon neutrality, in Sonoma County lifestyle, and in the people we employ. And we're always seeking ways to fulfill this commitment."

Tom and his wife Kate, a former television news anchor for CBS, are active philanthropists supporting a wide range of causes including The Boys & Girls Club, the California Academy of Sciences, the San Francisco Ballet, First Tee of San Francisco, and CORE (Children of Restaurant Employees). Tom has also been active in the business community serving as a board member and president of the Wine Institute, as well as serving on the Board of the California Travel & Tourism Commission and as a Trustee Emeritus of the California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park. Somehow, he manages to find the time to actively pursue his love of golf, too.



Tom's accomplishments at Rodney Strong Vineyard are astonishing. His family's significant and ongoing investments in the vineyards, including the breathtaking Cooley Ranch Vineyard high above Lake Sonoma, planted but a decade ago and already hailed as one of the greatest vineyards in Sonoma County, have created the kind of wines Rodney Strong himself could only have dreamed about. The investments in sustainable farming, solar energy (Rodney Strong Vineyards has one of the largest solar arrays of any winery in California), and innovative winemaking have produced better and better wines while simultaneously improving the environment. It's quite a legacy. And in 2016 Tom was honored by the Sonoma County Vintners with the Icon Award for his contributions to Sonoma County and its wines. And no wonder. It's certainly a long way from driving a water truck.