

TIMOTHY MONDAVI

In 2005 Timothy Mondavi began Continuum with his sister Marcia, father Robert and their families. At age 53 he was the same age as his father when he founded Robert Mondavi Winery. For Tim, Continuum is the new beginning after over 30 years in winemaking the world over, and the continuation of 4 generations of bringing wine to the American table.

Armed with a degree from the University of California at Davis in enology and viticulture, Tim was at the helm of the winemaking team for Robert Mondavi Winery from 1974 until 2004. At Robert Mondavi Winery, Tim led with a strong emphasis on viticultural research programs, new developments in rootstocks, clones, and vine density making the winery the industry leader. Early on, he began using the term “winegrower” instead of winemaker, to identify his belief that the personality of great wine is a manifestation of the soil, climate and the people involved. Tim pioneered the concept of “natural winegrowing”, developing significant environmental programs in the vineyards that go beyond organic. Many of his innovations in the winery promoted gentle handling and natural elevation of the winemaking process. This time of great research and the many wine makers who Tim mentored through the years is how the winery came to be affectionately known as the Robert Mondavi University.

His first hand experience in the art of winegrowing extended to Italy, Chile, France and Australia where Tim was able to lead in the creation of very high end wines. Among them, he was involved in the development of the wine, vineyards and winery for Opus One. He sought out and was involved in the creation of the joint ventures Luce in Italy and Sena in Chile. And during that time guided improvements in the vineyards and wine production for Tenuta dell’ Ornellaia.

Tim has always been active in the wine industry. He has been a leader in developing, defining and promoting the appellation structure of the Napa Valley. Having an appreciation of local history as well as an understanding of the great wine appellations of the world, Tim helped guide the formation of the Napa Valley appellation, with a vision of embracing the further recognition of sub-appellations within it. A firm believer that great wine is a reflection of its origin, Tim is convinced that clear and logical definitions of appellations within the Napa Valley are critical to long-term education and understanding of this great region and its diverse and distinct wines.

Tim is a former member of the board of directors for the Carneros Quality Alliance and the Napa Valley Vintners. He was also a founding member of the Oakville Winegrowers Organization and the Stags Leap District Winegrowers. He is a member of the Campaign Cabinet of the St. Helena Hospital Foundation, and former Chairman of the Foundation Board.

Tim was born in 1951 and enjoys skiing, swimming, diving, biking and traveling saying “my interest in wine continues to take me to wine regions around the world.” Tim makes his home in the Napa Valley and has five children.