



Renowned Winemaker Philippe Melka Joins Crown Point Vineyards as Consulting Winemaker

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Santa Ynez, CA — Crown Point Vineyards, the Santa Barbara County winery known for producing distinguished Bordeaux-style wines from their estate vineyards in the Happy Canyon AVA, is proud to have esteemed winemaker Philippe Melka join the team as Consulting Winemaker.

Melka, a native of Bordeaux, France, has worked at renowned wineries in Bordeaux and throughout Italy, Australia and Napa Valley. With a Master's degree in Agronomy and Enology, he's trained with some of the most notable personalities in the wine business, including Jean Delmas and Jean Philippe Masclef from Château Haut-Brion, Christian Moueix and Jean Claude Berrouet from Petrus, Paul Draper from Ridge, Daniel Baron from Silver Oak and Michel Rolland from Château Le Bon Pasteur. In recent years, he's served as winemaking consultant for some of Napa's highly regarded properties, establishing a reputation that has earned him the title of one of the top wine consultants in the world according to Robert Parker.

Melka's partnership with Crown Point marks his first venture in Santa Barbara County, where he joins Winemaker Adam Henkel who started with Crown Point in 2013 after eight vintages at Napa's famed Harlan Estate. "I have known Philippe since my time in the Napa Valley, and have been enjoying wines that he has made for almost 20 years," says Henkel. "I am honored to have the opportunity to collaborate with Philippe, and am looking forward to working with his entire team at Atelier Melka to help craft the best wines possible from this very special estate."

Henkel, along with Vineyard Manager, Juve Buenrostro, will work closely with Melka and his team to further explore and expand upon the potential of the vineyard. Says Owner Roger Bower, "Adam's strong integrity and dedication to quality coupled with Philippe's expertise will surely propel Crown Point to the next level." Adds Henkel, "To have Philippe recognize the potential of this region is somewhat of a stamp of approval to what we're doing, and we can't wait to reinforce our commitment to making world-class wines right here in Santa Barbara County."

"The pursuit of excellence in this field is what I'm passionate about, and the potential to create extraordinary wines is what drew me to Crown Point specifically," shares Melka. "Crown Point is a special place that is blessed with distinct topography, climatic conditions, and soil types – the perfect combination for making extremely unique wine."

Adds Bower, "We're proud to have Philippe join us on our journey and feel confident that we'll excel in all areas of winemaking with his knowledge and guidance. Our commitment to the land has always been unwavering, but our growing team instills a newfound confidence in our passion and desire to craft profound wines with a true sense of place."

About Crown Point

Crown Point is an estate vineyard and winery located in the foothills of the Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara AVA. Founded by proprietor Roger Bower in 2012, Crown Point is focused exclusively on growing Bordeaux grape varieties. Crown Point prides itself on farming and winemaking at the highest possible level to produce limited production wines that represent the estate's terroir. For more information, please visit www.crownpointvineyards.com

Region: Central Coast

Job Function: Winemaking
