



Mica Raas

Founder, Myka Estates

Winemaker Mica Raas grew up in the Santa Cruz mountains where he started learning about terroir early on while riding his bike. He attended Sonoma State University where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Geology and a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies, additionally studying winemaking through UC Davis. He knew early on he wanted to be a winemaker so by the age of 22 he was already working in the wine industry gaining hands-on experience as an assistant winemaker. He also worked a brief stint as a geologist, where he deepened his understanding of terroir.

Founded in 2009 by Raas, Myka Estates (first known as Mica Cellars then Myka Cellars) was originally intended to spotlight a love for the Central Coast wine growing region. The craft winery focused on cool-climate loving varietals from small, sustainably farmed vineyards in and around Monterey Bay. Myka Estates' home was in Watsonville, near Santa Cruz, in a co-op style winery space Raas developed where he helped other fledgling winemakers achieve their dreams of winemaking on a smaller, craft-based scale, while making his own wines. He ran multiple tasting rooms in the area until 2016.

Inspired by the promise of the growing regions of the foothills, Raas moved the winery and his family to Diamond Springs, El Dorado County, in 2016. Here Raas quickly became the highest awarded winemaker in the county. While overseeing production for Myka Estates, 1850 Wine Cellars, Fringe Wines, and various in-house brands, he also produces wines for many other local wineries. Has produced four consecutive vintages of Wine Enthusiast Best Buy wines, and wines that have earned 127 medals and over 70 wines with 90+ points in the past six years.

While he continues to source fruit from select Central Coast sites, upholding the original vision for Myka Estates, he now has access to all of the wonderful diversity of alpine microclimates the Sierra Foothills has to offer. He has introduced new wines to the Myka Estates line-up, showing off this diverse wine growing region and the unique terroir of its vineyards, while producing countless award-winning wines. Raas believes the naturally diverse El Dorado County growing region is one of the most under-appreciated American Viticultural Areas. While possessing the unique ability to grow almost any grape varietal, this growing region has simply flown under the radar of most viticulturists and winemakers for quite some time. In addition to making wine in this region since 2016 he has also managed farming operations for up to 120 acres of vineyards at once, converting heritage vineyards to mechanization and establishing multiple vineyards from raw land.

The new tasting experience, open in Apple Hill since 2021, celebrates Raas' vision for enjoying his wines; the tasting room offers beautiful views of the surrounding terroir while supporting guests through an exploration of approachable and unpretentious wines made from sustainably farmed grapes. The tasting room is family friendly and features pairings with a menu of seasonally inspired small bites in addition to tasting flights.

2023 marks Raas' 20th year in the wine industry, nearly half his life. One of his greatest strengths, honed over those years, continues to be his gift for innovation. While well versed in world wine styles and historic production techniques, he's not afraid to question the industry status quo, using his deep understanding to explore the modern edge of winemaking in a constantly changing industry.

3405 Carson Court
Placerville, CA
95667

MYKA
ESTATES

E: info@mykacellars.com
T: (530) 644-3474
W: mykaestates.com