



## Biography, Ken Bernards



### Ken Bernards, Winemaker

Scaggs Vineyard wines have found their true voice under the guidance of Ken Bernards, whose approach to winemaking unites science and art, knowledge and understanding.

Ken has been on the leading edge of winemaking technique in California since the late 1980s, using scientific experimentation in the vineyards and in the winery, while at the same time adhering to traditional, small-scale methods, such as fermenting in small open-top vessels or oak barrels, utilizing hand punch-downs, and seeking to allow the vineyard's character to speak through the wines. This exemplifies his winemaking philosophy: a delicate and ever-changing balancing act between traditional wisdom, scientific assessment, and artistic insight.

After graduating with a degree in chemistry from Oregon State University, Ken joined Domaine Chandon as a research enologist, or experimental winemaker, exploring virtually every area of viticulture. During these years, he honed his scientific reasoning, learning to isolate cause and effect in the vineyard, in the winery, and, ultimately, in the glass. A visit to Burgundy spoke to his artistic side, however, awakening a desire to make more nuanced wines, wines that expressed the individuality of each vineyard. In 1992, Ken made his first five barrels of Ancien Carneros Pinot Noir, marking the beginning of an ongoing quest for great pinot noirs. He was able to further pursue his desire to work on a small scale, hand-crafting single-vineyard wines as the winemaker for Truchard Vineyards from 1993-1997.

Ken's approach to winemaking, both practically and philosophically, go hand in hand with the aims of Scaggs Vineyard: to allow growing conditions, varietals and vintages to manifest themselves within the wine; to strive for

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wines with depth and complexity and the ability to evolve. He continues to make his own wines under the Ancien label along with small-production estate-grown wines for select vineyards, and is involved with winemaking, winery design, and vineyard planning in Oregon, California, and Chile, all part of his ongoing effort to discover more and more about the alchemy of timeless and expressive wines.