



LONG SHADOWS

DISTINGUISHED WINERIES & VINEYARDS

PHILIPPE MELKA - PROFILE

After two earlier appearances in Napa Valley, Philippe Melka returned in 1994. He swiftly rose to prominence and is now widely recognized as one of the leading craftsmen of his trade. Melka's talents are the consequence of an ideal juxtaposition – the geologist's feel for terroir, the traveler's familiarity with far-flung wineries and estates, and a vintner's passion to produce the very best.

Melka graduated from the University of Bordeaux, France, where he received a degree in geology in 1989. In his final year, he took a course in Terroir and Viticulture, and thereafter aspired to become a winemaker. After earning a second degree in Agronomy and Enology, he began to apply what he learned during stints at prestigious wineries in Australia, Italy, California and France (Petrus, Haut Brion and Dominus, among others).

Since his return to Napa Valley, Melka's technical expertise has contributed to the production of several highly acclaimed wines from a number of elite estates, including Marston, Seavey, Constant, Lail, Bryant Family, Caldwell, Quintessa, 100 Acre, and Vineyard 29.

Some of the most exciting wines crafted by Melka are from his own labels, Metisse & CJ. These meritage blends pay homage to Melka's French influence (new oak aging, extended skin contact and gentle handling techniques) as portraits of classic structure, balance and elegance.

Melka's blends are also influenced by the effects of terroir on each harvested lot. Although subtly nuanced to most, they are prominent and critical to Melka the geologist. It is the creative touch of Melka the winemaker, by which his wines exude the complexities and full flavors that distinguish his talents from the rest.

Phillipe Melka and his wife, Cherie, reside at Melka Cellars in Napa Valley. Cherie is an accomplished wine professional and laboratory manager at Silver Oak.