

MICHAEL LARNER, *Winemaker & Vineyard Manager*

Michael Lerner is winemaker and general manager at the family-run, boutique Lerner Vineyard & Winery (www.lernerwine.com) in Santa Barbara, California. He received a MS degree from the Department of Viticulture & Enology at UC Davis in 2005 and earned a BS in Geology at the University of Colorado, Boulder. He has traveled to three continents for wine apprenticeships and has worked for E. Guigal in Ampuis, France (the Rhône Valley), Marchesi Antinori at the Guado al Tasso estate in Bolgheri (coastal Tuscany) and various estates in the Santa Ynez Valley (California) and Australia. Thanks to those international experiences and his language ability (he speaks French and Italian), Michael is often asked to judge at trade fairs and wine competitions. He has done so regularly at Italy's biggest wine competition, the Concorso Enologico Internazionale in Verona, and the California State Wine Competition. His passion is Rhône-style wine and the noble grapes varieties that make it: Syrah, Grenache, Mourdevre and Viognier. Michael is involved with the Santa Barbara Vintners' Association and is a founding architect of the Ballard Canyon AVA (in Santa Barbara) that distinguishes this wine territory as one of the best in California for Syrah.

