

Charbay History

Miles Karakasevic is a European winemaker and Master Distiller. Born in old Yugoslavia, he apprenticed in the tradition followed by the Karakasevic family since the 1750's. Following in their footsteps, learning the secrets of his forefathers, he eventually became certified as a Master Distiller, a title earned by equaling or bettering the work of another Master. Along the way, Miles studied Enology and Viticulture at the University of Belgrade.

Immigrating to the New World in 1962, Miles first stopped in Canada and Michigan before eventually settling in California in 1970. In 1972, he and Susan purchased the seventeen-acre property on Spring Mountain that now is home for the family as well as Domaine Charbay. In the following years, Miles was employed by a number of wineries, including Beringer Vineyards, where he was assistant winemaker. Longing to distill, he convinced a client to import an Alambic Pot Still from Cognac. Miles started two of the three distilleries in Mendocino County. In 1983, he and Susan began making their own wines and brandy under the name Domaine Karakash. Being comfortable with all aspects of fermenting and making many wines, even champagne, now he was excited to begin a brandy program. Miles has been distilling with his family ever since.

As an avid reader, Miles enjoys history, science, and philosophy. He has been known to spend hours on the Internet—reading, researching and exploring the world. Making a healthy soup or stew comes as naturally as winemaking. "I like to cook because it's instantaneous. My wines & brandies take years, but a good Chorba (soup) takes only hours." Miles and Susan plan to spend more time near the shore: "We are drawn to the water."



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