



PINE RIDGE

VINEYARDS

GUSTAVO AVIÑA

VITICULTURE DIRECTOR

GUSTAVO AVIÑA, viticulture director at Pine Ridge Vineyards, grew up helping his father farm tomatoes in Mexico. When he and his wife came to the United States in 1988, Gustavo began working with some of the finest vineyard management programs in Napa Valley, including stints at Newton Vineyard and with David Abreu.

Since 2003, Gustavo has worked intimately with every Pine Ridge Vineyards estate property. He and his team understand the soils and climates of the winery's vineyards in five different appellations: Stags Leap District, Howell Mountain, Oakville, Rutherford, and Carneros. If he had to choose a favorite, Gustavo might pick Howell Mountain. He likes the way this steeply sloping vineyard is challenging to farm; it's also the first vineyard he developed from the ground up for Pine Ridge Vineyards. But he can talk extensively about what he appreciates about each of the appellations, and he cites the opportunity to work with such different vineyards as one of the things he likes best about his job.

“Knowing each vineyard row by row, vine by vine—that’s how I grow such high-quality grapes. I walk every vineyard, every block, once a week. This close connection to the vines is what gives us the quality grapes that allow us to make such high-quality wine.”

When he's not in the vineyard, Gustavo enjoys spending time with his family. He and his wife, Blanca, attend the basketball, baseball, and soccer games of their son, Gustavo, Jr. Their daughter, Jessica, is in college studying to become a nurse practitioner and, eventually, a doctor.

