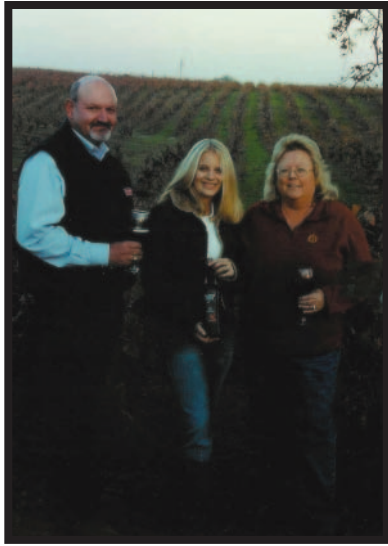


# About Us

## Five Generations of Wine Making



**Steve and Lori Felten, fifth generation grape growers in the Lodi region, continue the tradition of cultivating "Old Vine" Zinfandel vineyards that their ancestors planted in the early 1900's.**

With roots in Germany, Russia and later the Dakotas, the family settled in Lodi, first producing watermelons. Recognizing that the soil and climate were ideal for growing grapes, they began to plant varieties that included Zinfandel, Tokay, Carignane, and Alicante. For over one hundred years, the family has cultivated the land with the aim of producing top quality fruit. Zinfandel was one of the

first grape varieties to be planted in the Lodi appellation, although it had also been established in other parts of the California.

Grapes were originally packed in boxes for shipment to the East Coast and Canada for the purpose of home winemaking. In the early days of production, nearly all of the Zinfandel grapes were shipped with the exception of grapes that were used for making wine at home.

By the mid 1930's, grapes were sold primarily to cooperatives and larger, private wineries with a small portion of the production shipped east.

Historically, the vineyards were irrigated by flood or ditch irrigation and the inability to regulate the amount of water applied resulted in larger yields of marginal quality. In the late 1980's, drip irrigation was introduced, providing the ability to control the amount of water applied to each vine. This resulted in the ability to control the vigor of the vine, healthier fruit and ultimately, lower yields. With the introduction of more sophisticated vineyard practices, including shoot thinning, leaf pulling, color thinning and the removal of a second crop, the ability to produce the grapes of exceptional quality was realized.



## Our Mission

**Our Pride - Our Old Vine Zinfandel**

The Felten Family own and manage seven individual vineyard blocks of "Old Vine" Zinfandel that range in age from 30 to 85 years old. Each vineyard is planted in sandy loam soils along the Lodi Mokelumne River Region and up into the Clements Foothills.

In 1996, the family began to produce Zinfandel for the bulk wine market, selling wine to a number of prestigious, benchmark producers of Zinfandel in Napa and Sonoma Counties.

In 2000, Steve and Lori made the decision to start their own winery with the mission to produce exceptional Zinfandel. They continue to make wine from all of the vineyard blocks, culling only the very best lots for bottling Klinker Brick and designated vineyard wines. They produced their first Syrah in 2001. They have one goal...to produce world-class wine.

## Why The Name Klinker Brick?

**The Historical Brick of the 1920's**

We are often asked why we named our winery, Klinker Brick. Klinker Bricks are highly prized bricks that grace many of the historical buildings in Lodi, including our home. Chosen by Craftsmen architects in the 1920's for their distinctive qualities, including unique shapes and dark, rich color, these bricks are "heavier" than regular bricks.

**Bang Them Together to Hear a "Klink"**

"Klinker" refers to the sound that they would make when banged together, because of their increased weight. Rich, deep color, enormous density, unique and distinctive are the same qualities found in our old vine Zinfandel. And, we hope it is a name that you are not likely to forget!

# KLINKER BRICK WINERY

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