

FEBRUARY MEETING NOTICE

Next Meeting: February 27, 2019
Place: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Time: 7:00 PM
Wine Glasses: 6



The educational program for GENCO's February 27 meeting will feature Chris Louton, the winemaker for St Francis Winery. He joined St. Francis in 2013 after nearly seven years with Napa's prestigious Beringer Vineyards, where he focused on the luxury tier of wines, and helped craft award-winning Cabernet Sauvignons and other Bordeaux varietals. Chris now specializes in Cabernet Sauvignon and Bordeaux blends using grapes from a number of Sonoma County's best appellations for Cabernet and other Bordeaux varietals, for example Diamond Mountain, Knights Valley and Alexander Valley. According to Chris, "The wines from Sonoma County express themselves differently than those from Napa." They have their own unique brightness, depth and intensity.

Making world-class wines wasn't the career Chris had planned for himself. He was studying biology at UC Davis with every intention of becoming a veterinarian when he took a winemaking class his senior year. That's what hooked him, and instead of applying to vet school after graduation, he continued on UC Davis to study enology. After graduating, he took a job as a harvest intern at Schramsberg Vineyards in Calistoga. Four years later, Chris left Schramsberg as Assistant Winemaker, having built their Cabernet Sauvignon program. He'll tell you that "I didn't choose Cabernet, it chose me!"

Chris will touch on his career as a winemaker, why he pursued the profession, and how he honed his skills. I've asked Chris to focus his discussion on Bordeaux-style wines - to compare traditional winemaking methods used in the France with those commonly used in California. And then compare and contrast French and California 'Bordeaux' blends and varietals. He'll also talk about his strategy for blending, and what each of the five Bordeaux varietals contributes to the blend. Afterward, we'll taste the varieties he uses separately and then his blend.

Laura Pelleriti, GENCO Secretary