



# KNA

KRISTOF NILS ANDERSON WINES  
PELLA CABERNET SAUVIGNON  
NAPA VALLEY

KNA Wines is the personal brand of Napa and Sonoma winemaker Kristof Nils Anderson and his wife Jennifer. They offer two labels, PELLA Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley and SANNA Sauvignon Blanc Napa Valley, both named for their daughters. Kristof's wife Jennifer, a former Stegner Fellow at Stanford University, manages sales and marketing for the brand and blogs about garden-to-table eating and food and wine pairing on their website, [KNAWine.com](http://KNAWine.com). She is the former Digital Communications and Marketing Manager for Karen MacNeil & Co., where she was managing editor of *WineSpeed*, a fast-paced weekly wine newsletter. Kristof and Jennifer live in Napa, California.

KNA Wines began in 2002 when Reg Oliver offered to sell Kristof, then winemaker at Saddleback Cellars, a small amount of ultra-premium Cabernet Sauvignon from Star Vineyard. The vineyard, located in the prestigious Rutherford Bench, is next to Beaulieu Vineyard's #1 Vineyard, the grapes from which are used to make BV's flagship Georges de Latour Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon.

Kristof's dream was to create the ultimate expression of Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon, in the manner of great Bordeaux wines that are built to age, and to cellar it for an extended period before releasing it, as he believed many wine buyers consumed current releases too soon. Kristof and his wife Jennifer named their wine PELLA after their daughter Pella, who was born in 2003.

The 2002 vintage (2 barrels) spent two years in new French oak. The wine was unfiltered and unfined. The 2002 vintage of PELLA was released in 2009 into a difficult economic environment, in which many wine brands were going under.

Kristof chose to hold the remaining vintages (2003-09) and to continue cellaring them, as they only continued to improve. Also, his hands were full with a young family and working two full-time jobs: as founding winemaker





for Gargiulo Vineyards in Oakville and co-founder/founding winemaker of Scribe Winery in Sonoma. The 2002 to 2007 vintages were made with grapes from Star Vineyard. The 2008 and 2009 vintages, sourced from other prestigious (non-disclosed) Napa Valley vineyards, were recently released in fall of 2024.

Kristof has been quietly, steadily crafting an extraordinary range of acclaimed, ultra-premium wines in the Napa and Sonoma Valleys since 1992. His methods are uniquely self-taught, combining years of hands-on cellar work, laboratory experience at ETS Wine Labs in St. Helena, as well as formal training at UC Davis.

As winemaker and protégé of consultant Nils Venge from 1995 to 2000, Kristof made wine for Saddleback Cellars, Venge, PlumpJack, Del Dotto, Carter Cellars, and others before leaving to become head winemaker for Lewis Cellars in 2001 and 2002.

In addition to being the founding winemaker for 18 years at Gargiulo Vineyards, Kristof made the inaugural vintage of Booth Family Vineyards (now Bella Oaks Vineyard). He was participating winemaker for the coveted Oakville Winegrowers Cuvee (2011-13 blends) and is known for his stylistic contributions to the world-renowned Oakville, Napa Valley, AVA. Recent consulting clients include Robinson Family Vineyards in the Stags Leap District and Carlo and Dante Mondavi's award-winning label RAEN (for which he was inaugural consultant winemaker).

A pioneer in low and non-interventionalist winemaking techniques that begin with meticulous viticultural practices, Kristof is the co-founder/founding winemaker (since emeritus) of natural wine phenomenon Scribe Winery in Sonoma, California, as well. There, he established a winemaking program known for aromatics and fruit-forward elegance. Karen MacNeil (*The Wine Bible*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition) described his Scribe Estate Riesling as possessing "Audrey Hepburn-like grace."

Kristof has enjoyed a pleasure unique among winemakers in that he has made wine from estate vineyards that he designed, developed, and planted in concert with vineyard managers and consultants such as Paul Skinner, Ph.D., in addition to overseeing winery planning and construction. "I've learned more from grape growers about making great wine than from anybody else," Kristof says.

The SANNA Sauvignon Blanc label joined KNA Wines in 2019. In 2021, during the pandemic shutdowns, Kristof left Gargiulo Vineyards to focus on his own brand. Harvest 2022 marks the year Kristof relaunched the PELLA Cabernet Sauvignon brand. Kristof hand farms several one-acre Napa vineyards himself, without pesticides. The 2022 PELLA vintage will be released soon.

