



LARKMEAD VINEYARDS
KATE SOLARI BAKER | PROPRIETOR

The Larkmead estate was purchased by Larry and Polly Solari in 1948. Larry, an Italian immigrant from Tuscany, played a significant role in California's emerging wine industry as the CEO of United Vintners, and later, as Chairman of the California Wine Institute. During these years, Polly managed the day-to-day farming and finances of the vineyards. Their daughter Kate, and her late husband, Cam, took over the historic vineyard in 1993, and have since worked tirelessly to uphold Larkmead's reputation as a great wine estate.

Kate grew up on the Larkmead estate, back when Napa Valley was a sleepy, rural farming community. Always creatively inclined, she pursued her interests at U.C Berkeley, where she met Cam. With Cam assisting her parents in the running of Larkmead, Kate was free to focus on her art career and raising her three children. Her colorful portraits and landscapes have been featured at numerous galleries and museums across the west coast and are prominently displayed throughout the winery.

In 1993, Kate joined Cam in overseeing the estate after the passing of her parents. Under their care, Larkmead has flourished, and some of its finest developments have arisen from their instinct to honor the past. They revived the salons of former owner Lillie Hitchcock Coit with a gallery of Kate's artwork and lectures by visiting scholars. And, most significantly, they restored Larry Solari's vision by returning winemaking to the estate with the completion of the winery's construction and production of their first modern wines with the 1995 vintage. In the years since, they have



invested considerably in the improvement of Larkmead, including: an impressive new winery precisely tailored to the specifics of the estate vineyards; transition to organic and sustainable farming; elevated new tasting room experiences for members and guests; establishment of a three-acre research block vineyard focused on the impact of climate change on grapegrowing in Napa Valley; and further honing of the Larkmead wine portfolio. With Cam's passing in March 2023, Kate and the family continue to honor Cam's legacy and remain steadfast in their commitment to Larkmead Vineyards.

Ever the consummate hostess, Kate loves to visit with guests at Larkmead, from walking the beautiful pollinator gardens to showing her numerous pieces of artwork. She muses that "views from every seat are no different today than the ones my parents saw more than 75 years ago—the magic of Larkmead has always been greater than the sum of its parts, and I am grateful to be a part of it. It is a beautiful sanctuary in our busy and demanding world."