



LARKMEAD VINEYARDS
NABOR CAMARENA | VINEYARD MANAGER

Nabor Camarena was born in the small town of Arroyo Seco, in the Mexican state of Jalisco. Upon his 18th birthday, he made his way to California and joined his older brother at Hyde Vineyards. Nabor worked the vast ranch for 16 years, drawing innumerable lessons from many of California's top winemakers, but left in 2000 to join the team at Donum estate. There he was trained in management and team-building, and made the acquaintance of Kelly Maher, viticultural consultant to Larkmead. Maher eventually lured the talented Nabor upvalley, an exciting change for the Jalisco native. "After so many years of working with the "Queen" Pinot Noir, I decided to try my hand with King Cabernet," Nabor says with a laugh.

Nabor has a light-hearted air, but a serious dedication to his craft. When he arrived at Larkmead in 2009, he was amazed that none of his requests for equipment or personnel were denied, or even questioned. "The trust that Kate and Cam put in me, it is so valuable," Nabor declares with great emotion, adding, "The history of Larkmead puts a lot of responsibility on me. I keep Mr. Solari in mind, and all the people that farmed this place before. Sometimes I feel their presence, especially when we are harvesting at night and it's quiet, I feel that they are watching me." His sensitivity extends to the vines, each of which he tries to get to know personally. "I listen to the vineyard, and I try to support the vines to achieve each job. The roots need to feed and the leaves to catch the sun. I do not farm the vineyard," he affirms, "I listen and it tells me what it needs."