

MATERRA

CUNAT FAMILY VINEYARDS

BRIAN CUNAT PROPRIETOR



Brian Cunat spent much of his youth working a Midwest farm, starting as a young boy and continuing during summers while in college, experiences that developed an interest and respect for agriculture and farming that has grown into a life's passion and a dream.

Brian wasn't exposed to wine at an early age. His wife, Miki, is Japanese, and her father owned a European-influenced restaurant in Japan. It was through his father-in-law that Brian was first introduced to wine, and his appreciation and wine education grew.

Brian and Miki, have traveled extensively, touring wineries, walking vineyards and enjoying local cuisines and flavors. Their first visit to the Napa Valley, with its natural beauty and welcoming residents, along with the exceptional quality of wines produced from the region, gave real inspiration to their family dream.

In 2007, when a rare opportunity presented itself, Brian decided to combine his love of wine and his dream of farming by purchasing a 50-acre property in the Oak Knoll District of Napa Valley. Working with an expert team of vineyard managers and winemakers, the property was transformed with Merlot, Petit Verdot, Malbec, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc and Viognier. In 2015, Brian's vision for Materra | Cunat Family Vineyards came full circle with the opening on a cutting-edge winery and hospitality center on the estate.

Brian's dream come true of owning an estate and winery in Napa Valley, while inspired by his respect for farming and love of wine, is also the product of his hard work and success as a businessman and entrepreneur. Growing up in a family of relatively modest means, today Brian runs a prosperous real estate development and property management firm with his brother, John, who's also an investor in Materra | Cunat Family Vineyards. Brian also sits on the boards of several companies, including Golden Eagle Community Bank, which he co-founded, and Shiner International, which is publicly traded.

Brian is a recipient of the Entrepreneur of the Year Award from Ernst and Young, as well as the Arthur Anderson Small Business Award, and the Illinois Family Business of the Year award from Crain's Chicago Business.

In addition to his many business interests, Brian is very active in community service. He has served as the Kiwanis International President and has been honored with nearly every award Kiwanis presents. He also served three years on the Bush Cabinet on The Faith Based Community Initiative.