

# CHANDON

## JAMES KRESS WINEMAKER, STILL WINE

James Kress joined Domaine Chandon as Still Winemaker in July 2005. He is responsible for the winery's varietal wine portfolio which showcases his expertise with the classic champagne varieties – Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier and Chardonnay.

In addition to creating food-friendly still wines from Domaine Chandon's Carneros ranch, James has expanded the selection of varietal wines to include unoaked wine styles, a light-bodied Chardonnay and a rosé of Pinot Noir. Showcasing the Pinot Noir grape, he crafts reserve Pinot Noirs from outstanding appellations for that varietal: Carneros, Russian River Valley and Santa Rita Hills. With these wines, James continues a tradition of creating world class wines that harmonize with food, both for *étoile*, Domaine Chandon's restaurant and the everyday dinner table. Fortunately, he's been preparing for such a challenge his entire career.

James' interest and passion for wine was fostered as he earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Cornell University School of Hotel Administration, and then consulted with many of New York's finest restaurants, hotels, and clubs. It wasn't until he found himself playing golf with a family friend, Winemaker Craig Boyd, that the notion of a career in the winery industry took hold. "When I heard that Craig was a winemaker and had previously been a chemical engineer, I was immediately intrigued by the romance of becoming a winemaker. Before I made the leap, I enrolled in courses for organic chemistry and microbiology as sort of a barometer to see if I could master the science of winemaking," he explained. Then, just in time for the 1995 harvest, James packed his bags, moved to California and subsequently enrolled in the Masters of Science program in Viticulture and Enology at the University of California, Davis.

While attending UC Davis, James took advantage of nearby wineries in the Sierra Foothills to obtain practical, hands-on winemaking experience. James then honed his craft in premium viticultural regions throughout California. He has made award-winning wines from the Santa Cruz Mountains (Mount Eden winery), Monterey and San Luis Obispo (Arroyo Seco Vineyards and Meridian). James was lured to Napa Valley to produce vineyard-designate wines for St. Clement winery in St. Helena before finding his niche at Domaine Chandon, where he crafts still wines from the traditional champagne varieties of Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier and Chardonnay.

As he expands the still wine portfolio and continues the legacy of producing outstanding food-friendly wines, James Kress and Domaine Chandon make the perfect pairing.



For Chandon sparkling wine, varietal wine or winery inquiries:

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