

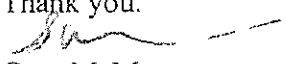
May 13, 2008

Hillary Gitelman  
Napa County Planning Director  
1195 Third Street, Suite 101  
Napa, CA 94559

Please Reference Alpha Omega Winery Use Permit file # P07-00869, and Variance file #P08-00047.

I have no objection to the use permit for Alpha Omega Winery as it appears it will enhance the neighborhood creating a look that is consistent with the agricultural charter of the Napa Valley and with the goals of the General Plan. I have been asked what concerns I may have and had my questions answered fully to my satisfaction.

Thank you.

  
Greg McManus  
CEO and President

Thomas Leonardini  
255 W. Santa Inez Ave.  
Hillsborough, CA 94010  
(650) 348-2757 - Voice  
(650) 348-7929 - Fax

John/Flu

May 19, 2008

Ms. Hillary Gitelman  
Napa County Planning Director  
1195 Third Street – Suite 101  
Napa, CA 94559

Re: Alpha Omega Winery  
Use Permit #P07-00869  
Variance #P08-00047

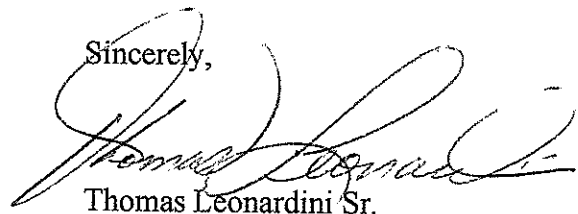
Dear Ms. Gitelman:

I own a 24-acre vineyard that borders both Galleron Road and Mee Lane in Rutherford. Alpha Omega Winery is a neighbor. I have been apprised of the winery's proposed expansion.

I think proposed expansion will enhance the neighborhood and, therefore, have no objections whatsoever. In fact, the new ownership group has greatly upgraded the "old" facility and it is now an asset to the neighborhood!

Best wishes.

Sincerely,



Thomas Leonardini Sr.

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NAPA CO. CONSERVATION  
DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING DEPT.

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MAR 31 2008

NAPA CO. CONSERVATION  
DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING DEPT.



Hillary Gitelman, Napa County Planning Director  
1195 Third Street, Suite 101  
Napa, CA 94559

March 27, 2008

RE: Alpha Omega Winery Use Permit file # P07-00869, and Variance file #P08-00047.

Dear Ms. Gitelman;

Diageo Chateau & Estate Wines, owner of Provenance Vineyards, is pleased to inform you of its support for Alpha Omega Winery's construction projects. The project will enhance the neighborhood by improving the aesthetics of the facilities, creating a look that is more consistent with the agricultural charter of the Napa Valley and with the goals of the General Plan and through a design that seeks to preserve the tranquility of neighboring properties.

We urge the staff, Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors to approve the project as proposed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Scott".

Tom Scott,  
Senior Director of Communications  
Diageo Chateau & Estate Wines

cc: Eric Sklar, Alpha Omega Winery

trust

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JUN 02 2008

NAPA CO. CONSERVATION  
DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING DEPT.

Hillary Gitelman, Napa County Planning Director  
1195 Third Street, Suite 101

Napa, CA 94559

Dear Hillary Gitelman, Napa County Planning Director:

May 28, 2008

Dear Hillary Gitelman, Napa County Planning Director:

This letter is in regards to the Alpha Omega Winery Use Permit file # P07-00869 and Variance file #P08-00047. We would like to extend our full support to Alpha Omega Winery's development project. We received a tour of their plans and we feel in will only enhance the already rich area we live in. We have not been disturbed by any current construction that has already gone on. All their plans are consistent with the reputation that the Napa Valley is known for in the appearance of their properties. Their plans, in our opinion, will not create any greater noise or difficulties for anyone of us, on the contraire it will only greater the image. We are asking that all staff, Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors acknowledge our support for their project and we urge you to approve the proposed project.

Best regards,

*Maurilio Gallegos*

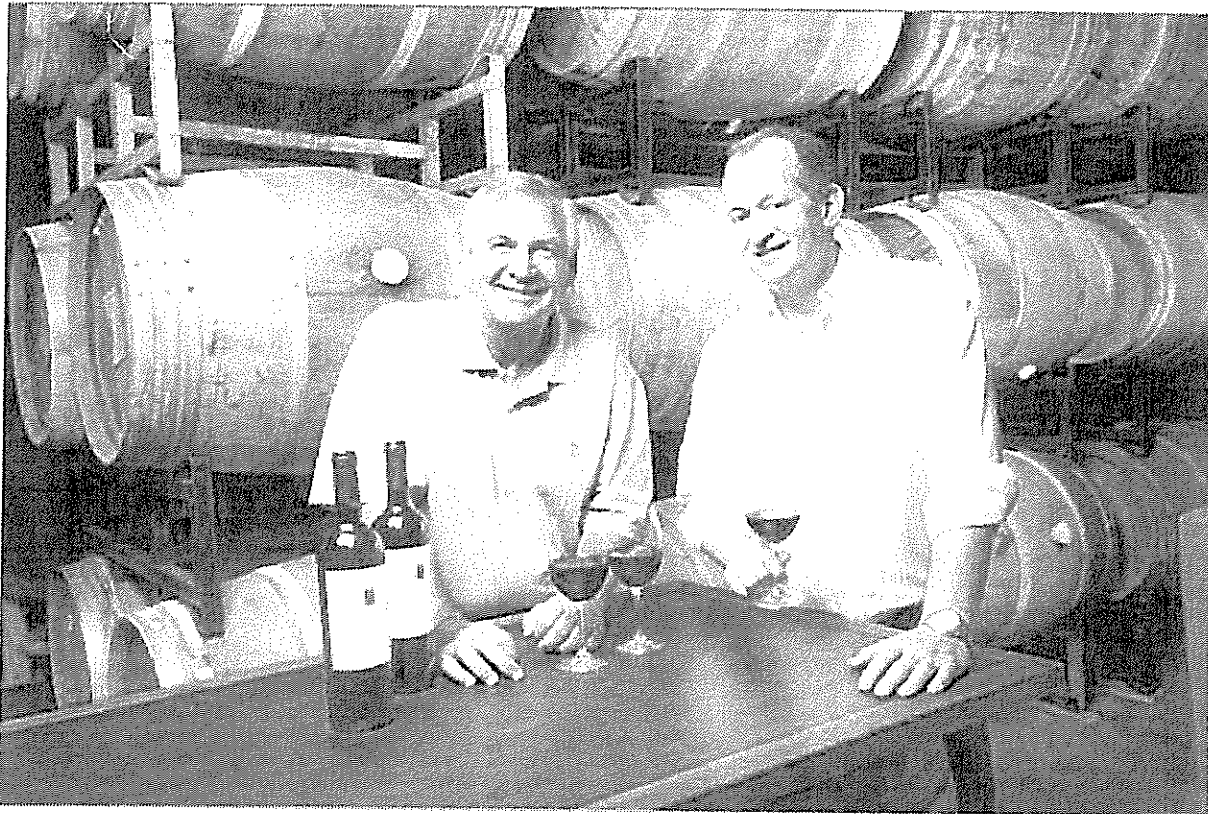
Maurilio Gallegos

Vineyard Owner

Gallegos H. Vineyard

707-963-5151

# Alpha Omega makes the right moves



Robin Baggett and Eric Sklar have tapped their collective business acumen to open Alpha Omega Winery in Rutherford. Chuck O'Rear photo | Buy photos

Friday, June 20, 2008

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By PAUL FRANSON  
Register Correspondent

Many people who buy or start new wine companies here do it primarily to enjoy the Napa Valley lifestyle, but Robin Baggett and Eric Sklar used their experience to craft a business that turned an operating profit in little over a year.

To do so, they didn't just pick a few key steps and do them well; they implemented a textbook of ideas to ensure success for their Alpha Omega Winery.

To start with, they bought an existing winery on Highway 29 in Rutherford, the heart of Napa Valley. And that property came with an unlimited public tasting room, something not offered for new wineries in Napa County for many years.

Secondly, they hired a talented young winemaker and paired him with the world's most famous winemaking consultant, Michel Rolland. Rolland's imprimatur is virtually a guarantee of success, and Alpha Omega is one of the few places visitors have easy access to wines Rolland has crafted.

With only limited vineyards of their own, they also arranged long-term leases with some of

Napa Valley's leading vineyards including Beckstoffer To Kalon, Newton, Hudson and Stagecoach. The diverse areas allow them to blend their wines with varied components and they lease the vineyard blocks so can control management, not just buy grapes by the ton.

They've invested in prime winemaking equipment and facilities, telling the winemaker to get the best. "We didn't give him a budget," Sklar said.

They also early focused on direct sales through the tasting room and built a 2100-member wine club quickly, avoiding giving up half their sales to distributors.

No surprises

Learn a little about the two principals and it's not surprising how they've proceeded. They're both entrepreneurs who've started successful businesses before.

A native of Salinas, Baggett was a successful lawyer when he bought 3,000 acres in Edna Valley in 1988 and planted 800 acres of grapes with a partner. In 1998, they established Courtside Cellars, which now has production facilities in San Luis Obispo and San Miguel. He also started Tolusa Cellars there.

He moved to Napa Valley in 2006 to create Alpha Omega; he and Sklar picked that name partly because Baggett was tired of being at the end of the alphabet with his Tolusa winery, but avoid using the Greek letter omega to avoid a "frat boy" image.

Sklar, a St. Helena councilman, has been growing grapes in Napa Valley for more than 30 years at Silverado Trail and Skellenger Road. He's also involved in housing projects and a hotel development here, but earlier in his career, he founded and then sold Burrito Brothers in Washington, D.C.

The winery building (and permit) they bought had started as Domaine de Napa in 1985, then became Anthony Bell's Quail Ridge. It was Esquisse Winery when Sklar and Baggett bought it in 2006. An earlier sale fell through, allowing the two partners to raise the cash they needed to buy the property and get started.

They hired Swiss-born winemaker Jean Hoefliger from Newton Vineyards before they took control of the property in February, and opened the tasting room the day after they completed escrow on June 30 to sell wines Hoefliger had blended.

Rushing frantically to install new equipment, Hoefliger crushed grapes the next month.

Meanwhile, Sklar and Baggett had signed the famed Rolland — not an easy task; Rolland has 17 clients in Napa Valley alone, including Screaming Eagle, Bryant, Araujo, Hartwell,

Harlan, Dalla Valle, Quintessa and Blankiet. But Rolland had worked with his protégé Hoefliger at Newton, and he welcomed the chance to do so again. "I like to work with people I like," he said.

The famed consultant and his pupil are both fans of a touch of ripe petite verdot, which adds color, aroma and flavor. "But it's like a spice," said Hoefliger. "You can't use too much."

At Alpha Omega, all the production areas have been refurbished, and an improved tasting room should be completed by the end of June — the staff has had three temporary locations since Alpha Omega opened.

It and new patios and reflection pond with fountains (really the irrigation pond) lend an elegant but not grandiose touch. "It's no Taj Mahal," said Baggett. "Our focus is to make the best wine possible."

The next project is a U-shaped barrel-aging facility to be built next year behind the winery; the barrels are now storied at the Ranch nearby.

"We use a lot of barrels," Sklar said, noting that they barrel ferment their chardonnay and even part of the cabernet. All fermentation starts naturally, and the wines aren't fined or filtered.

Production is about 8,000 cases.

The wines include sauvignon blanc, chardonnay, cabernet and a proprietary red Bordeaux blend. They cost \$32 to \$76. The tasting room is open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The tasting fee is \$10, refunded with a wine purchase.

Alpha Omega Winery is at 1155 Mee Lane at Hwy 29 in Rutherford. The phone number is 963-9999.