

Hugh Davies
Vintner, Schramsberg Vineyards & Davies Vineyards

Named President of Schramsberg Vineyards in 2005, Hugh had already spent many years as a winemaker in the family business. Hugh was born in 1965, the same year that his parents, Jack and Jamie Davies, purchased the abandoned Schramsberg property in the Mayacamas range above Calistoga. As a young man, he earned a master's degree in enology from the University of California, Davis, an undergraduate degree from Bowdoin College in Maine, and honed his skills at Mœt et Chandon in Epernay, Petaluma Winery in South Australia, and Mumm Napa Valley.

Under Hugh's guidance, the winemaking team has continued to develop the Schramsberg sparkling wine program through increasing grape sources from over 120 cool-climate sites across Carneros, Anderson Valley, and the Sonoma and Marin coasts; as well as the use of barrel fermentation in the production process; and the expansion of small-lot base wine program to over 300 lots of unique wines. This effort has provided the winemaking team with a much broader base of flavor profiles to utilize when ensuring the quality of the final blends of the 12-14 sparkling wines made each year.

Concurrently, Hugh has led his team in establishing a red wine portfolio and brand with Davies Vineyards over the past 25 years. Replanting of the family's historic hillside vineyards on the Schramsberg property to red Bordeaux varietals was carried out in the 1990s and 2000s. Recognized as the first hillside vineyard site in Napa Valley, the Davies winemaking team has produced J. Davies Estate Cabernet Sauvignon since 2001. The winery's first still Pinot Noir wines were produced in 2009. The Davies Vineyards winery was established in St. Helena in 2012, the same vintage of the J. Davies Estate "Jamie" and the first non-estate Davies Napa Cabernet Sauvignons. In 2017, the Davies Vineyards Grayson Building was opened, providing an intimate space where wine enthusiasts can be educated about the brand.

Continuing on a path that started over 50 years ago, Hugh carries on with the family legacy living on the Schramsberg property with his lovely wife Monique and three sons Emrys, Nelson and Hugh Jr.