

IRON + sand



Maclain Atkinson

Winemaker, Iron + Sand

Like Iron + Sand, winemaker Maclain Atkinson is Pure Paso. A proud Paso Robles resident, Maclain sources his Cabernet Sauvignon from the San Miguel and El Pomar Districts – two sub-AVAs of Paso Robles known for producing its signature style. Maclain also honors the acclaimed wine region by aging his Cabernet Sauvignon in neutral barrels, allowing the Paso Robles terroir to be fully expressed.

Maclain's appreciation of California wine country began during childhood when he and his brother played in the vineyards in Temecula, California – a small agricultural town in Southern California. While his bachelor's degree briefly drew him away from the wine region when he attended Arizona State University, he promptly returned home to Temecula to become a teacher. Maclain maintained his connection to wine during his teaching tenure with a job at a local winery. At the winery, Maclain found himself among likeminded individuals and recognized that a career in winemaking lay within Fresno State.

Earning his bachelor's degree in enology at renowned California State University, Fresno and garnering recognition as an outstanding student achiever – an honor bestowed to those who exemplify a graduate of the esteemed university – set Maclain on a path to success. Capturing the attention of recruiters at Trinchero Family Estates, Maclain joined the family-owned wine company as a harvest lab technician stationed at Westside Winery in Lodi, California where he would begin his 7+ year career within the organization.

Trinchero Family Estates' senior vice president of winemaking became impressed by Maclain's inherent talent and presented Maclain with the opportunity to transition to the wine brand's new Trinchero Central Coast winery as winemaker and general manager. Maclain jumped at this opportunity to return to the central coast and move closer to the Southern California wine region where he got his start.

Maclain's career reached new heights when Trinchero Family Estates asked him to join the organization's first venture into Paso Robles as winemaker for Iron + Sand, a role commanding his craft of Cabernet Sauvignon sourced from Paso Robles' prestigious Estrella River Ranch and Parrish Templeton Vineyards. Maclain has thrived as a winemaker working in Paso, where he has found himself in a community that shares his enthusiasm for "the science and art behind wine."

When not perfecting his Cabernet Sauvignon sourced from the famed terroir to which Maclain calls home, he can be found road biking down the coast and spending time with his wife, two sons, two dogs and four hens in the El Pomar District AVA.