

fruit. Pretty amazing from a high altitude mountain vineyard – you’d expect that the wines would be much too powerful to bottle by themselves without a blending wine to smooth things out.”

The Dinkel’s also embrace the sustainable mantra of Atlas Peak. “Nothing goes onto the vines that will harm a bee or injure a tadpole or fish in our lakes. And specifically, no glyphosate!” These marching orders helped clarify the mission for highly acclaimed vineyard manager Hector Lopez who tends the Dos Lagos Vineyards.

## LOBO WINES

Yet another acclaimed Atlas Peak label is Wulff’s LOBO Wines. Meaning ‘wolf’ in Spanish, the moniker is a playful wink to its founders’ surname as well as an homage to the Valley’s revered Hispanic workforce. Founded in 2005 by Randy and his wife Krys (the duo initially sold their fruit to other high-end wineries), they purchased their 42-acre dream property high atop Atlas Peak, intending to establish their own label. “The conditions were perfect for classic rocky, volcanic hillside Cab, so we planted what we could with Cab and a little Merlot and Petit Verdot for blending,” said Randy. The first LOBO label was a Pinot Noir in 2007, followed in 2008 by a Cabernet Sauvignon made by winemaker Victoria Coleman. “Victoria had just finished her oenology degree at UC Davis and an internship at Chateau Mouton Rothschild. We hired her the moment she returned from

France, and we are now working on our 15th vintage together. We share the same passion, and we spare nothing to produce simply the finest ultra-premium wines.”

The Wulff’s winemaking philosophy has never wavered. With mantras of ‘balance’ and ‘complexity,’ they make Rosé of Pinot

Noir in the crisp, Provençal style, as well as Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Merlot, and a Proprietary blend of Syrah, Cab, and Merlot called “Howl,” all with 100% estate-grown fruit. Yet, they consider their Atlas Peak Cabernet Sauvignon their flagship wine. “Victoria would say it is the most

**“There is little that separates a good wine from an extraordinarily great one, but to a wine lover, there’s a world of difference between the two, and Atlas Peak often makes that difference.” – Igor Sill**



Victoria Coleman  
Photo courtesy of Lobo Wines



Krys and Randy Wulff  
Photo courtesy of Lobo Wines



Wulff Vineyards on Atlas Peak after dark - Photo by Tim Carl

challenging wine to make, with different lots all ripening at different times, but so worth it,” said Randy, who describes their vines as close row planted so that they struggle with the rocky soil to produce less yield, yet wonderfully extracted flavors. Their winery, The Caves at Soda Canyon, features dramatic, mountain top views overlooking Stags Leap.

Just as Peter is devoted to his Circle R Ranch, the vintners of Atlas Peak have also found a life-defining passion – to protect and regenerate the gifts of nature. Sill said, “We don’t own this land; it owns us, and I don’t say that lightly. I appreciate that we are only the most recent stewards in its long history. There is a privilege and tremendous responsibility in farming this remote, natural mountain setting.”