



PALM BAY
INTERNATIONAL
FINE WINES & SPIRITS

HERNÁN GRAS, PRESIDENT & CHIEF WINEMAKER: VIÑA MONTGRAS

Inspired by a long family history in the wine business and fueled by years of intense study and hands-on experience, Hernán Gras' passion for winemaking is at the heart of Chile's Viña MontGras. Together with brother Eduardo Gras and business partner Cristián Hartwig, Hernán founded Viña MontGras in the Colchagua Valley over a decade ago with the goal of producing estate-grown Chilean wines of exceptional quality and originality.

According to Hernán, "In Chile we have everything we need to produce great wines; the soil, the climate and the grapes." At MontGras, Hernán and his team are applying preeminent state-of-the-art technology and years of diverse viticultural experience to these natural elements to create wines that are a true expression of their terroir.

Born in Temuco, Chile, in 1944, Hernán is the youngest of three children. Growing up, he admired his late father who, in the family tradition, worked his entire life as a wine merchant. Thus influenced, Hernán attended the Catholic University in Chile's capital city of Santiago, where he earned degrees in agriculture, viticulture and enology. He wrote his thesis on malolactic fermentation and later went on to study this subject in further depth at the Ecole de Enologie in Bordeaux, France.

Upon completion of his research in Bordeaux, Hernán returned to Chile to undertake a position as Enology Researcher at the Catholic University. He later moved to North America to join the Viticulture Research Department of Brights Wines, Canada's largest wine producing company, where he worked for 20 years in the areas of viticulture, quality control, winemaking and production. During this time, Hernán also had the opportunity to take part in several courses and seminars at University of California at Davis.

In 1990, Hernán and his partners, with the help of a first-rate Canadian engineering company, began planning the layout of the MontGras winery and vineyards. The first vines were planted in 1993 and construction of the winery reached completion the following year. The wines that MontGras has released in subsequent years have met with national and international acclaim, testament to the realization of Hernán's goals for MontGras.

Hernán lives in Chile with his wife, Alina Poirot. Together they have raised three children.

For more information contact:
Bethany Scherline, 516-802-4736
BScherline@palmbay.com