



**John Kontrabecki
Founder and Principal**

John Kontrabecki is the visionary and one of the principals behind Foggy Bridge Winery, and he is also the president and CEO of TKG International, a commercial real estate investment and development firm.

Up until 1998, John had only a passing interest in wine, taking a few wine classes and seeing wine more as a natural addition to an evening meal. A frequent traveler, John had always taken note during his trips abroad of the way Europeans treated wine, relishing in the way wine was made and enjoyed locally—it was simply a part of daily life. Wine was approachable, and he was able to enjoy it without the pomp and circumstance of tasting notes and wine scores. John became intrigued by the prospect of bringing this classic European sentiment to the United States.

After a chance meeting with well-known wine industry grower, Phil Wente, John quickly learned there was much more to wine than what was in the glass. Both successful businessmen in their own regard, Phil sparked John's interest in an industry he knew little about, ultimately convincing John to become involved in grape growing. Shortly thereafter, John committed to developing a rolling hillside into a 100-acre vineyard in the Livermore Valley.

That same year, John serendipitously met Randall Grahm, a winemaker who is arguably one of the California wine industry's most original and innovative thinkers. With a vineyard of his own and a budding knowledge of and interest in wine, John was receptive to Randall's ideas about the best ways to be successful in the highly competitive wine industry. Randall advised John to get to know the industry from the inside out: work with the vineyard, grow good fruit, understand how wine is made and then, most importantly, take that knowledge and do something that has never been done before in the wine industry.

In 2006, John moved to the Presidio of San Francisco, a 1,500-acre national park in the northwest corner of the city, and immediately immersed himself in the culture of the community by reading the Presidio newsletters, attending town hall meetings and befriending fellow residents.

It was through this community immersion that John saw first-hand the commercial growth underway in the Presidio, and he began to see all the seemingly unrelated events of the past several years come together. His European experiences with wine, his relationship with Phil Wente, his vineyard, and Randall Grahm's advice converged into the idea of an urban winery. John has put this concept into play in two former military buildings, an aircraft hanger and a machine shop, located at the base of the Golden Gate Bridge at the west end of Crissy Field.

John knew he could never enjoy the fruits of success without the talents of other like-minded, big thinkers in the wine industry. Thus, in 2007, he partnered with a team of trusted wine industry professionals to launch Foggy Bridge Winery, which when it opens in 2008, will be the first urban winery in a U.S. national park.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
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