LIFE IS A CABERNET
It is the clever slogan of Silver Oak Cellars, a winery that celebrates the ability of wine to bring family and friends together.

The phrase is a reflection of President and CEO David Duncan, who acknowledges the importance of not taking oneself too seriously; at Silver Oak, wine is meant to be paired with laughter, and the lasting memories made with loved ones.

Such priceless experiences are compiled on “Bottle Stories,” a blog where fans contribute accounts of life events involving Silver Oak wines. From the adventures of Reese Witherspoon, Cameron Diaz and Drew Barrymore to those of local couples enjoying a glass while watching the Fighting Irish, these stories all have one thing in common. Just as the Duncan family envisioned, they bring families together over Silver Oak wine.

THE MAN BEHIND THE VINE
After receiving his undergraduate degree in English from Notre Dame in 1988, Duncan moved back to his home state of Colorado to begin his career at Duncan Oil, Inc., his family’s oil and gas exploration business in Denver. He soon rose from exploration manager to president. Meanwhile, he attended night school at University of Denver, earning his MBA in 1994. David’s final master’s project was also his first work experience with Silver Oak, creating a financial model for the cellar, a winery co-founded in 1972 by his father, Ray Duncan.

In 2002, when asked by Ray to run Silver Oak winery, David consulted with his wife Kary, herself a fellow Notre Dame graduate. Within 24 hours the couple had made their decision; they, along with their children, moved to Napa.

Since his arrival, David has been wildly successful. With two wineries, located in Napa Valley and Alexander Valley, Silver Oak crafts some of the region’s most deliciously drinkable Cabernet Sauvignon. As Silver Oak continued to grow, quite literally, David helped develop Twomey Cellars with Ray and his brother Kevin. Their vision was to expand their operations beyond Cabernet. Twomey Cellars now produces Merlot, Pinot Noir and Sauvignon Blanc across three separate wineries.

Even so, Cabernet will always be the heart and soul of the Duncan family tradition. After all, life is a Cabernet.