

## Chad Melville

*Winemaker, SAMsARA Wine*

Chad Melville is a farmer, however he didn't start out that way. After graduating from University of Southern California, Chad spent a year traveling the world, with a long stop as a chef in Zimbabwe, where he is credited (by himself) with introducing the locals to American-style pancakes. Following that, Chad began a lucrative career as a stock broker on the Pacific Exchange. While Chad was increasingly successful in his career in finance, he couldn't shake his love of wine, food, and the outdoors. In 1997, Chad jettisoned his successful career on the Exchange to move into a double-wide trailer and plant the Melville Vineyard in California's Santa Rita Hills appellation. On weekends, Chad drove six hours each way to take viticulture courses at UC Davis. He began working with his dad, Ron, at Melville Winery where he continues to be co-owner/co-founder and vineyard manager. During that time, Chad met his wife, Mary and soon after she quit her successful advertising job in Los Angeles to join him in the fancy double-wide trailer.



In 2002, Chad and Mary co-founded SAMsARA to focus on limited releases of Pinot Noir and Syrah from micro-sites within carefully selected vineyards. Chad loves working with these varietals to express the single vineyard's soils, altitudes, slopes and elevations that bring the best out of the vine.

Chad focuses on real non-intervention winemaking with super clean and healthy fruit grown, ripe stems for whole-cluster fermentations, and no fining and filtering. "Farming is a metaphor for many of life's most important lessons. Farming teaches us that there are elements occurring in nature that are far beyond our control. After I apply my knowledge and passion to the vineyard, I must then surrender my efforts to a causality about which I have little say. Within this struggle, the lesson of humility is learned."

Chad enjoys traveling, backpacking, hiking, fly fishing, and listening to the Grateful Dead. He and Mary have a daughter (Logan) and son (Caden). Chad loves the rush of harvest and Mary, Logan, and Caden can be found many a harvest night eating takeout food on a card table at the garage in Lompoc, which is Samsara's worldwide headquarters.