



## BEAU WINE TOURS & LIMOUSINE SERVICE

BY CHARLES NEAVE

There are a variety of ways to see the wine country of Northern California. If you are a visitor you can rent a car at the airport; if you are a local you drive yourself in your own car or go with friends and make one of them the designated driver. For the hardy (or foolhardy) you can hop on a bicycle. Or, and this is without doubt my first choice, you can call 1-800-387-2328 and let Beau Wine Tours & Limousine Service arrange for absolutely everything.

Founded in 1996, this local company has worked hard to deliver each of their guests excellent customer service. “We started as a corporate transportation company fifteen years ago,” said Tom Buck, company president (and noted Wine Educator). “But over time we’ve transformed the company into a fully dedicated destination tour service. And, I would also add that we are fully capable of handling any type of group, from a honeymooning couple to the corporate groups that gave us our start.”

Today, they operate a fleet of spotless and mirror-polished black vehicles that are a frequent sight on area roads and at wineries, both large and small. Their roster of available vehicles is certainly impressive. They range from Town Cars, top-level Mercedes Benz sedans, executive-level SUV’s, and impressive stretch limousines, to shuttle buses, spacious custom vans and beautifully outfitted coaches for

large groups, whether it be friends and family here for a special occasion, or a business group numbering in the dozens.

Adding to the attraction are the company’s drivers. They are required to take a three-week course before they even meet their first customer. This training period is not limited to just vehicle operation, either. It includes a comprehensive curriculum that makes accomplished drivers into very knowledgeable tour guides and sources of information and local lore.

Driver training includes learning local history, geography and general winemaking and winery comprehension. Most of them have invaluable personal ties with winery owners, winemakers and tasting room personnel. They may even throw in some local gossip (let’s call them “stories,” it sounds more dignified) and little known facts you can share with your friends when you get home. And not by any means least of all, they are friendly, personable, appropriately conservative and unfailingly accommodating. Also, you are encouraged to ask questions. The driver/guides enjoy sharing their thoughts and are more than happy to answer any questions, and as they say, “There is no such thing as a silly question. Helping you understand this area and its’ two major attractions – fine wine and excellent food – and exceptional scenery as well, is why we are here, and why you, we are sure, are here as well.”