

Jordan[®]

TODD KNOLL
Executive Chef



Todd Knoll joined Jordan Vineyard & Winery in 2003 as chef de cuisine, working under the direction of Executive Chef Udo Nechutnys. He was promoted to executive chef in 2007 and today oversees the entire Jordan culinary program, which includes preparing little tastes daily for tour and tasting guests, cooking meals for trade guests and special events, managing the estate garden, crafting Jordan Estate Extra Virgin Olive Oil and directing the kitchen staff.

Born into a military family in 1969, Chef Knoll was raised in Hawaii, and draws inspiration from his childhood home, as well as Asia, when creating menus for the Jordan dining room. Jordan's house style—balanced wines with bright fruit, soft tannins, nice acidity and low alcohol—allows Chef Knoll to push the envelope with counter-intuitive ingredient selections. His cuisine utilizes seasonal produce from our garden and orchard, located on a hillside behind the kitchen, as well as local growers and artisanal purveyors.

In the garden, Chef Knoll focuses on growing heirloom varieties of produce and other delicate fruits, vegetables, lettuces and herbs that demand the daily care he and his staff can provide. He also leads our stone-fruit tree grafting experiments and makes his own sea salt by collecting water during his travels to Hawaii, Mexico, Greece, France

and the California Coast. An artist at heart, Chef Knoll's penchant for drawing architectural-style plans of dishes the day before an event could impress fellow chefs as easily as fine art professors.

Prior to joining Jordan, Chef Knoll worked at the Ritz-Carlton San Francisco, where he served under the direction of Executive Chef Jean-Pierre Dubray. In his fourth year with Ritz-Carlton, Chef Knoll was named chef saucier for his culinary skills and extensive knowledge of the different taste profiles that are required to create fine sauces and soups. He graduated with honors from the California Culinary Academy in San Francisco in 2000.

He lives in Windsor, Calif., with his wife, Nitsa, who oversees hospitality and special events at Jordan, and their son, Petros.