

AUSTIN HILLS COFOUNDER

As a young man, Austin, a member of the Hills Bros. coffee company family, pursued business, receiving his B.A. degree from Stanford University and his M.B.A. from Columbia University. He began working at Hills Bros. Coffee, Inc., eventually serving as Vice President and finally, Chairman of the Board.

The family chose to sell the business in the early 1970s, and Austin embarked on a new pursuit: In 1975, Austin founded Hills Vineyards and developed his own label. After the Judgement of Paris in 1976, Austin came to Mike Grgich with a dream to produce world-class wines. Mike had extensive winemaking and management experience and, now, the reputation as the American winemaker who beat the French. The two men were a perfect match. Mike joined forces with Austin and his sister Mary Lee to found Grgich Hills in 1977.

Today, Austin is Chairman of the Board of Grgich Hills Estate. Aside from his involvement with wine, Austin is president of Hills Vineyard, which grows and distributes Dos Colinas olive oil. He is also an active member of San Francisco society, serving on a wide variety of boards that demonstrate his eclectic range of interests, including Hills Capital Management, The Asian Art Museum, and The Leakey Foundation.