Judge Royce Lewellen

Following an illustrious legal career, Judge Royce Lewellen co-founded Lucas & Lewellen Estate Vineyards with renowned grape grower Louis Lucas in 1996.

Royce met Louis in 1975 through the Santa Maria Wine & Food Society. Royce was a passionate wine enthusiast with a vision for the future of the Santa Barbara County wine industry. Over the next twenty-five years, the Lucas and Lewellen families grew a deep friendship that would serve as the foundation for Lucas & Lewellen Estate Vineyards. Having bonded over their longtime love of wine, over lunch in 1996, Royce and Louis set out to produce the finest wines in Santa Barbara County.

Originally from St Louis, Missouri, Royce’s farming roots afforded him an appreciation for wine and grape growing. Following his graduation from the University of Missouri and service in the US Air Force, he arrived in California to study law and graduated from the Boalt School of Law at UC Berkeley in 1957. Royce moved to Solvang to work with a highly esteemed lawyer and launched his own successful legal career in Santa Barbara County. He eventually served as the Solvang Justice Court Judge and later Judge of the Superior Court in Santa Maria, which was officially renamed the Lewellen Justice Center in his honor. Upon retirement, Royce continued to serve the courts as an Assigned Judge and conduct private arbitration and mediation services.

Royce has a long-standing record of community service and leadership including: President of Solvang Chamber of Commerce, Trustee of the Solvang School Board, President of the Rotary Club, founding Director of the Solvang TheaterFest, founding director of the PCPA Foundation, founding director of the Community Bank of Santa Maria and serving as a Director of Contract Freighters, Inc. (CFL), a nationwide motor carrier.

Royce is a long time wine collector and has enjoyed many visits to European, Australian and New Zealand wine regions. Today he devotes most of his infectious energy to Lucas & Lewellen Estate Vineyards. Royce and his wife Ann reside in Santa Ynez, California.