

MARCH IS
WOMEN'S
HISTORY MONTH

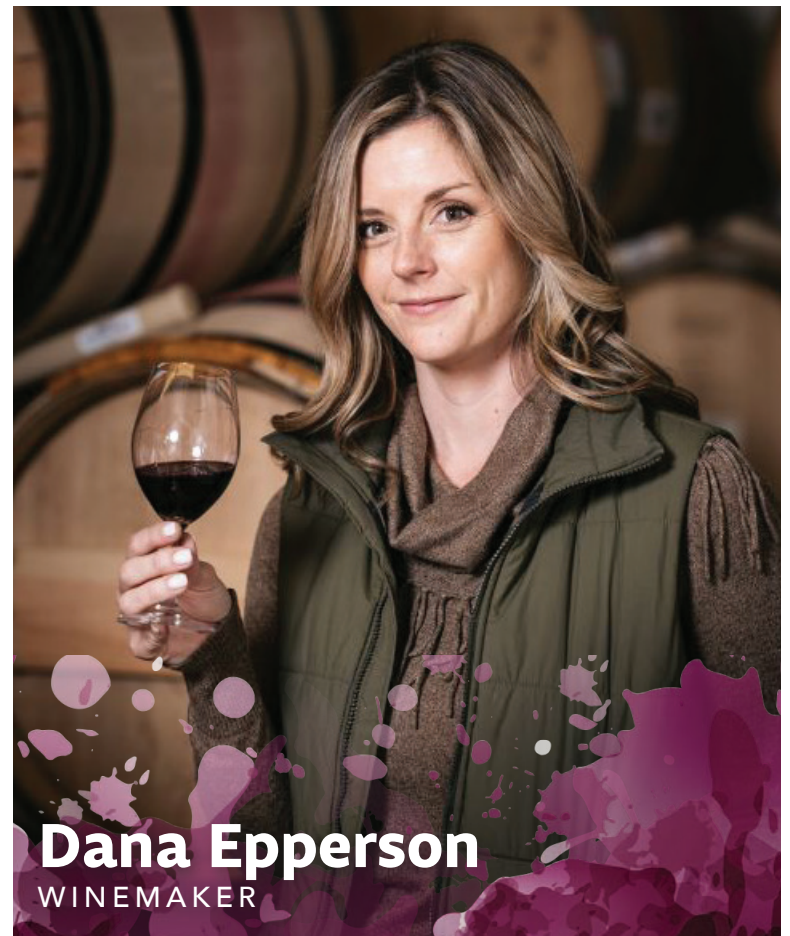
Celebrate Women's History Month
with these Women Winemakers.

CELEBRATE

women's winemakers.



Dana Epperson is the gifted winemaker who guides Decoy's winemaking. She works collaboratively with the vineyard and winemaking teams to ensure the wines reflect the Decoy signature style, and its unwavering commitment to quality.



Dana Epperson
WINEMAKER

Growing up between her family's two Sonoma wineries, it's no surprise that **Jamie Benziger** is blazing her own trail in the wine industry. As a kid, Jamie was always on the move, whether it was playing soccer, riding her horse, or running around with her two sisters, Kelly and Jill. Later, while studying marketing at Loyola Marymount University and working summers selling tour tickets at the winery, Jamie realized she wanted the family business to be her future.

To get back to wine country, Jamie transferred to Sonoma State University to complete her marketing degree and added wine business to her studies. She interned in marketing with Gundlach Bundschu Winery during school but it wasn't until her first harvest working the lab at Benziger that Jamie realized her heart was really in winemaking. Since then, Jamie has had incredible opportunities to continue learning the chemistry of fine wine working in the wine labs at St. Francis and Bogle, traveling to New Zealand to work harvest at Villa Maria, and get her hands dirty in the field at Enterprise Vineyards.

Returning home to Sonoma in 2015, Jamie had the opportunity to work alongside the most incredible winemaker she knows; her Dad, Joe Benziger. Mentored by her father and just as adventurous, Jamie is passionate about taking Imagery to a broader audience. In December 2017, Joe retired and Jamie took the reins as Winemaker.

IMAGERY
ESTATE WINERY



Jamie Benziger
2ND GENERATION BENZIGER
WINEMAKER

As the second-generation winemaker at Imagery, Jamie has been on a roll. Not only was she named the **2019 Best Woman Winemaker** in the International Women's Wine Competition, she was also included on Wine Enthusiast's list of **40 Under 40 Tastemakers**.



Colleen Fitzgerald

HEAD WINEMAKER,
CHENIN BLANC + VIOGNIER

*“I have always been captivated by
the perfect balance of chemistry
and art in winemaking.”*



Colleen Fitzgerald is head winemaker for the Chenin Blanc + Viognier program at Pine Ridge Vineyards. Colleen originally joined Pine Ridge as enologist in 2015 and quickly gravitated towards the unique Chenin Blanc and Viognier blend, which is often the case of anyone who drinks it. Like many of her counterparts at Pine Ridge, Colleen's path of discovery to wine started from a love for the intricacies of winemaking and daily creative outlet that comes from hands-on work. The aromatic and innovative CB+V white blend, pioneered by Pine Ridge Vineyards founder Gary Andrus in 1995, has become a favorite amongst those who discover it and is now one of America's most popular white wines. As Colleen puts it, "I love working with Chenin Blanc because it has distinctive acidity and vibrant lemon-lime characters that complement the weight and floral notes of Viognier. Once you discover it, there is no going back."

Colleen has an unmatched knowledge of the care needed to properly grow and blend the two distinct grape varieties from grape selection, picking decisions, monitoring fermentations, blending and bottling. Colleen also works with winegrowers in the Clarksburg American Viticultural Area in the Sacramento Delta region to make decisions about pruning and vine management as well as harvest timing, which is crucial with Chenin Blanc.

Colleen was raised in Pleasanton, California and started her pursuits in the world of wine through harvest and lab internships after earning her biochemistry degree at California Polytechnic State University. She spent several years working harvests in New Zealand, Paso Robles and Napa before joining the Pine Ridge Vineyards team full time. When she's not on the job, Colleen can be found outdoors. She enjoys hiking around Point Reyes, checking out new food spots, and traveling.

PINE RIDGE
VINEYARDS



Leslie Mead Renaud
WINEMAKER

Former SCUBA diving instructor, US Forest Service employee and urban forester, **Leslie Mead Renaud's** path to becoming Winemaker at Martin Ray is far from boring. The daughter of a Navy officer, Leslie was born in Virginia, but lived in Honolulu from the age of ten. After graduating high school and spending time as a diving instructor, she returned to the mainland to pursue a degree. Upon graduating from the University of Michigan with a Bachelor's degree in Natural Resources, she worked for the Forest Service in Oregon, hooting for spotted owls in the forests of Mt. Hood.

Her career took a sharp turn when she realized her interests aligned with the balance of the wine industry: a combination of science and art. Leslie's first position in the industry was as a Lab Technician at Ironstone Vineyards.

She gained experience working in wineries all over Northern California, including Sonoma county, Napa Valley, and the Santa Cruz Mountains. In 2005 she joined Talley vineyards in San Luis Obispo, working her way from Enologist, to Assistant Winemaker, and then to Head Winemaker. From there, she was hired by the Foley Wine Group, and prior to joining the team at Martin Ray Winery, she was Director of Winemaking for Foley's Roth Estate.



Favorite Beverage (After Wine):

Chai tea, water, or gin



Most Memorable Wine Experience:

Leslie recalls visiting the famed Louis Jadot Winery in Burgundy, France with her chardonnay-hating husband while on their honeymoon. She fondly remembers learning that while her husband hates Chardonnay, he **LOVES** Grand Cru White Burgundy. The rarer, and more expensive, the better!

Favorite Varietal:

Pinot Noir is her desert island wine. It pairs with everything and she finds it the most fun grape to experiment with, as it shows immense differences from site to site. Her fascination with the grape led her to be a member of the Board of Directors for the World of Pinot Noir, a weekend-long seminar focused on highlighting Pinot Noir wines from around the world. She's been involved with the organization for over a decade.

Ayca Revaz
WINEMAKER

CHLOE[®]

WINE COLLECTION



Ayca grew up a couple of hours away from one of Turkey's popular winegrowing areas, Cappadocia. She was taught to appreciate wines from Turkey and Old-World winegrowing regions thanks to her father. Her interest in learning more about wine grew as she got older and led her to focus on winemaking studies during her undergraduate education at Middle East Technical University. After graduating, Ayca landed a job making Chardonnay and Pinot Noir at a winery in Healdsburg, which only fueled her passion for making wine in California. That is when she set her sights on UC Davis Viticulture and Enology Master's program where she was admitted into the program in 2016.

After graduating with her master's degree, Ayca worked for a big wine producer in California in their Central Coast quality department looking over finished wine quality and stability. She also had the opportunity to make highly acclaimed Chardonnay and Pinot Noir in one of the coolest regions of California, Monterey.

Now as Chloe winemaker, Ayca crafts **award-winning** wines from some of the world's most preeminent vineyards.



Jessica Tomei has spent more than 15 years chasing vines through some of the world's finest wine growing regions. Her hands-on approach starts in the vineyard, working alongside growers to ensure our grapes reach the perfect ripeness. Letting each vineyard shine through to create rich, creamy and delectable wines, Jessica brings out the truest grape expression for each Cupcake varietal.

A third-generation Californian, Jessica grew up in a close-knit Italian and Greek family with a love of food and wine. That love led her to the highly renowned University of California, Davis, where she earned her bachelor's degree in Viticulture & Enology. Since then, she has traveled the world and completed nearly 20 harvests, working at vineyards in Tuscany, Italy; Chile; and all over California, including Sonoma, Napa, and the Central Coast.

Cupcake[®]
VINEYARDS



Jessica Tomei
WINEMAKER

Lisa Amaroli began her journey in the wine industry in 1996 shortly after graduating from Sonoma State University with a degree in Biology and Chemistry. Residing and working in Europe for several years before college, Lisa gained a perspective into “living” with food and wine lifestyle and discovered her love for wine.

Lisa was introduced to the wine business from the ground up, first working in the vineyards, then venturing into roles in the lab and operations before joining the team at Benziger Family Winery in 1999. Lisa is passionate about cultivating our Certified wines from our Biodynamic and Organic farmed properties.

When not making wine, Lisa is an avid horseback rider and traveler. At home, she enjoys cooking and is forever looking for the perfect wine and food combination.

Lisa Amaroli

DIRECTOR OF WINEMAKING



“I believe the wines are a reflection of the land and of the people who work so hard to bring the wine from grape to bottle and ultimately to the consumer.”



BENZIGER
family winery



Tawnya Falkner
WINEMAKER



joy
of
life

Tawnya Falkner's vision was to create an affordable everyday luxury which embodies the French spirit of joie de vivre (joy of life) and elevates life's everyday moments. Ultimately Tawnya's journey resulted in Le Grand Courtâge, an award-winning French sparkling.

J. LOHR

VINEYARDS & WINES



Kristen Barnhisel
WINEMAKER

Acclaimed winemaker **Kristen Barnhisel** brings two decades of viticulture and winemaking experience spanning three continents to her role as winemaker for all white wines.



Cynthia Lohr
CHIEF BRAND OFFICER

As the daughter of wine industry pioneer Jerry Lohr, **Cynthia Lohr** spent some of her youth in the vineyards and at the wineries, absorbing aspects of the wine industry firsthand. In 2002, Cynthia joined the family business as director of communications for J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines, and in 2009, she was named marketing vice president. Beginning in 2016, Cynthia transitioned to the role of trade and brand advocate for J. Lohr. Then in 2019, Cynthia was named chief brand officer.

Christine Morrison – Director of Winemaking for SEAGLASS Wine Company – has been with the Central Coast brand for more than a decade. From the winery's signature aromatic whites to its satisfying cool-climate reds, Christine knows how to capture the essence of California's coastal region in every glass. Christine was born and raised in California, where she developed her affinity for flavor at an early age. Her Polish-American mother and Italian-American father cooked most of their family dinners from scratch, and Christine travelled with them across the country as a child – tasting America's array of local flavors everywhere they went. These early encounters with a range of cultures and influences stayed with her as she began her path to winemaking at University of California, Davis. Christine began taking introductory winemaking classes as elective courses while pursuing her Bachelor of Science degree in biochemistry and molecular biology.

Strong winery attendance at a biological science career fair captured her interest and ultimately prompted her to pursue a career in winemaking. Following graduation, Christine spent nearly five years crafting wines from various vineyards in world-class growing regions, including notable stints with Cumulus Wines in Australia, Villa Maria Estates in Marlborough, New Zealand, Kendall Jackson in Sonoma, and Rutherford Hill and Beringer in Napa Valley. Equipped with deep winemaking knowledge spanning the lab to the cellar, Christine joined SEAGLASS Wine Company and Trinchero Family Estates as a winemaker in 2011.

Christine then ascended to her Director of Winemaking role in 2018, where she continues to craft this crisp and elegant line of wines.



Christine Morrison
DIRECTOR OF WINEMAKING

Christine's knack for capturing California's central coast in a glass is evident across SEAGLASS' seven varietals. From the aromatic and alluring Pinot Grigio to the delicate and refined Pinot Noir – each SEAGLASS wine is a true toast to the coast.

SEAGLASS
WINE COMPANY

SONOMA-CUTRER®



Zidanelia Arcidiacono
WINEMAKER

Zidanelia and her family moved to Mendoza, Argentina when she was just three years old. Since winemaking is the main industry in that region, she grew up surrounded by winemakers, listening to their wonderful stories. The passion they expressed for their life's work made a deep impression on her at a young age, and she decided that winemaking was her true calling.



Cara Morrison
WINEMAKER

Cara Morrison joined Sonoma-Cutrer in 2005 where she immersed herself in crafting Chardonnay in the classic, Burgundian style. She considers Chardonnay a special grape that allows the winemaker more versatility than any other;

Sonoma-Cutrer's intense focus on Chardonnay is what attracted her to the brand. Today, Cara loves that her role allows her to experiment with barrel maturation and the blending process of both of Sonoma-Cutrer's Burgundian grape varieties - Chardonnay and Pinot Noir.



Taking a page from Taken—a traditional wine with a taste for the contemporary—**Rebecca** turns convention on its head. Rebecca champions both scientific precision and artistic flair in her craft—a rarity that can be attributed to diverse influences that shaped her at an early age. She's the daughter of scientists and a sister to a Los Angeles filmmaker—a background that shines through in her uniquely captivating and complex winemaking style.

Compelled by an incessant thirst for knowledge, the Bay Area native excelled at University of California–Davis. Here, she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in viticulture and enology while leading the Davis Enology and Viticulture Organization as its president. The Phi Kappa Phi honor society inductee also earned the school's Most Outstanding Senior Award along with Wine Spectator's scholarship for three consecutive years.

Taken and the larger Trinchero Family Estates portfolio caught Rebecca's eye during a career fair that she attended while pursuing her undergraduate degree. Rebecca subsequently joined the Trinchero Family Estates team as a winemaking research intern in June 2017, then returned as an enologist in July 2018. The bilingual winemaker's strengths became increasingly apparent during a harvest in Chile. Her natural acuity and commitment to the craft caught the attention of Trinchero Family Estates' senior leadership team, who promptly appointed her to her current role in August 2020.

Rebecca has flourished at the helm of the Taken brand, where she has played an active role in expressing the brand's identity and origin through Taken's Red Blend and Chardonnay offerings.

Rebecca's fresh take on Taken tells the story of past and future—both of Napa Valley's heritage and her hand in shaping what's to come.



Rebecca Jain
WINEMAKER

TAKEN





Kim Stare Wallace
PRESIDENT



In 2011,
Kim Stare Wallace
became President of
Dry Creek Vineyard.
Her vision for the future
of this dynamic family business
is clear - to honor the past while
innovating for the future to come.

Together with her husband Don Wallace,
the second generation has been
instrumental in guiding the winery on its
path toward being recognized as a
Certified California Sustainable
Vineyard and Winery.



DUCKHORN®
VINEYARDS

Renee became the fourth winemaker in the
four-decade history of Duckhorn Vineyards in 2014.

Renee guides the entire Duckhorn Vineyards portfolio,
crafting wines that offer structure and sophistication,
as well as a deep and purposeful sense of place.



Renee Ary
WINEMAKER





Alison Sokol Blosser
CO-PRESIDENT, CEO &
SECOND GENERATION WINEGROWER

Alison Sokol Blosser is CEO and Co-President of Sokol Blosser Winery. The daughter of founders Susan Sokol Blosser and Bill Blosser, Alison feels a deep connection to the family vineyard and winery. Leading the business, she collaborates with her winemaker brother, Alex, to guide its strategic future while directly overseeing sales, marketing, and all administrative functions, including accounting, finance, IT and human resources.

Alison carries the torch in Sokol Blosser Winery's sustainability efforts and commitment to social responsibility, most recently overseeing the notable achievement of the Winery's B Corp certification.

In addition to earning a BA from Portland State University and an MBA from the University of Washington, Alison spent three years working in public relations and marketing communications. Her experience spanned startups to consumer branding giants, including Nike and Nordstrom. In 2004, she returned to Sokol Blosser and assumed the role of director of marketing. Then, in 2008 after a thoughtful multi-year succession, she and Alex were named Co-Presidents and completed the transition of the family winery to the next generation.

Alison is involved in the Oregon wine industry as a past President of Oregon Pinot Camp and Dundee Hills Winegrowers Association, as well as a member of YPO and Women for Winesense. Alison is married to Javier Zamora and has three children: Dario, Luca and Isabella



Hobbies:

Travel, doing anything outdoors (bicycling, hiking), being with family & friends, eating good food & drinking good wine.

What You Like About Pinot Noir:

Every sip tells a story and the ending lingers, rather than telling you "The End".

Favorite Food:

Just about anything.

Favorite Drink Besides Wine:

Water, or a good Arnold Palmer.

Place You'd Like To Travel To:

What? I can only choose one? Australia, New Zealand, Portugal, Spain, Thailand, Japan, Tahiti, Maine, New Mexico, ok – I'll stop now.



Margaret Leonardi is a talented winemaker, who creates Fetzer's white wines, including 1,000 Stories Chardonnay.

FETZER VINEYARDS.

— ESTD. IN 1968 —



Margaret Leonardi
WINEMAKER



Kristen McMahan
WINEMAKER

Kristen is committed to crafting wines that embody both the rustic beauty and refinement that have made the Anderson Valley famous among Pinot Noir enthusiasts.



BODEGA
TRIVENTO
ARGENTINA



Magdalena Viani
WINEMAKER

“I believe the best way to remember and enjoy a wine lies in the moment, alongside good food, and above all, in good company.”





Meredith McGough
WINEMAKER

Her Italian mother and free-spirited father ensured that **Meredith** appreciated wine and travel early and often, leading her to dive headlong into a Viticulture and Enology education at UC Davis before she was of legal drinking age. The combinations of tradition and innovation, physical and mental, art and science sustain her passion for the craft of winemaking.

A native Pacific Northwesterner through and through, Meredith found a home at Union Wine Co. after several years making decidedly pinkies-up wines in the Napa Valley, a few formative vintages braving the Oregon elements with a couple of our friends in the Willamette Valley wine industry, and some time harvest-hopping and adventuring in France, Australia, and New Zealand.

As Winemaker, Meredith works with the rest of the team to put impressive, unpretentious wine in the can or bottle.





ROBERT
HALL®



Amanda Gorter
WINEMAKER

Amanda Gorter has trained under some of the best in the industry, including her current mentor, Don Brady. She joined Robert Hall Winery in 2016 and was promoted to Winemaker in 2019. Amanda has a degree in Biology with a Winemaking Certificate from the University of California, Davis.

STERLING
VINEYARDS®



Loren Kopit
WINEMAKER



Sterling wines are created by the talented **Loren Kopit**. Harvests around the world and an MS in Viticulture & Enology have led her to become Winemaker at Sterling Vineyards.