

CALIFORNIA HOMIES

THE MAGAZINE OF ARCHITECTURE
THE ARTS & DISTINCTIVE DESIGN

Among *the* Vineyards

**NAPA
ST HELENA
SACRAMENTO**

**On The Beach
LAGUNA**

FOOD & WINE

DISPLAY UNTIL OCTOBER 31, 2022

\$6.99US SEP/OCT 2022

0 9 >



7 25274 95900 6

WOMEN IN WINE

From The Early Days Of California Wine To Today One Thing Is Sure—Women Have Become An Important Voice

BY VIRGINIE BOONE

THE YEAR 1972 WAS A PIVOTAL YEAR for California wine, the year several marquee wineries put stakes down in Napa and Sonoma, a time before many Americans had even developed a taste for wine. That many remain in business today is testament to their courage, vision and ability to survive.

These include the two stars of the 1976 Judgement of Paris Tasting, Chateau Montelena and Stag's Leap Wine Cellars, as well as Burgess Cellars, Jordan Vineyards and Winery, Diamond Creek and Dry Creek Vineyard.

The grouping recently held a tasting to showcase their long history and library of wines, 50 years on. While the wines showed extremely well and underscored the point that California wines can age, what has evolved even better than the bottles is the role of women in wine, who today hold many more positions of power.

At Jordan Vineyard and Winery, started by Tom and Sally Jordan in the Alexander Valley, Maggie Kruse was named head winemaker in 2019 after spending more than a decade as enologist, then assistant and associate winemaker.

Kruse works closely with Sonoma County native Dana Grande who runs Jordan's grapegrower relations with vineyards across the region, typically an even rarer position for women to hold.

At Napa Valley's Burgess Cellars, Bill Sorenson made the wines for 41 vintages. Today the winemaker is Meghan Zobeck.

Zobeck is a proponent of regenerative farming and low intervention winemaking, going back to an old-school style of less new oak, less extraction and native ferments. She's also planted a Monarch butterfly garden and introduced livestock into the vines to foster biodiversity and better soil health.

At Diamond Creek Vineyards, founded on Diamond Mountain by the late Al and Boots Brounstein, President Nicole Carter considers it paramount to steward the winery and vineyard for its next 50 years and beyond. To that end, Diamond Creek not only maintains the same vineyard crew it has had for 50 years, an unheard-of achievement in California wine, but is transitioning into organic farming and the use of cover crops. A long-term replanting of all the vines is also underway.

Lastly, at Dry Creek Vineyard in Sonoma County, second-generation vintner Kim Stare Wallace represents one of the few women to have taken over a family winery from her father. A pioneer of Dry Creek Valley Sauvignon Blanc and Zinfandel, the winery remains family owned and a maker of affordable wines, farming 185 estate acres that are all certified sustainable.

Interested in learning more about women in wine? Check out *Bâtonnage* (batonnageforum.com), a forum and mentorship program for women working in all facets of the wine industry. *CH*

Clockwise from top left:
1. Jordan Winery
2. Nicole Carter and Graham Wehmeier, Diamond Creek
3. Kim Stare Wallace, Dry Creek Vineyard
4. Dana Grande and Maggie Kruse, Jordan Winery
5. Megan Zobeck, Burgess Cellars



