

Erica Stancliff's Debut Vintage as Pfendler's Winemaker

Pfendler Vineyards has introduced its next chapter, with the debut of the 2019 vintage and Erica Stancliff's first releases with Pfendler as winemaker. Founded in 2008 by Kimberly Pfendler, Pfendler Vineyards has long maintained that the Petaluma Gap is one of the greatest regions in California for growing elegant Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. With roots dating back to 1992 when Kimberly's late husband, Peter Pfendler, planted the family's first vines in the region, Pfendler has consistently embodied this vision and potential. Vintage after vintage, Pfendler's refined Pinot Noir and Chardonnay wines have cemented its reputation as one of the Petaluma Gap's leading artisanal producers.

One of California's rising stars, Erica is deeply rooted in the Petaluma Gap. She has served as President of the Petaluma Gap Winegrowers Alliance since 2019, in addition to making Petaluma Gap wines for her family winery, Trombetta Family Wines. Other roles include enologist at Michael Browne's CIRQ, and winemaking positions at Furthermore Wines, O'Connell Wines and Stressed Vines. Destined to be a winemaker, Erica's passion for wine was sparked at the young age of 10, when family friend Paul Hobbs discovered that she had a gifted palate. Through wine education in the form of countless vineyard walks and many tastings, Hobbs helped foster her unique ability to express vineyard sites through wine.

Erica and Kimberly's paths initially crossed while collaborating on a Petaluma Gap auction lot for the 2018 Sonoma County Barrel Auction. From their first blending session together, Erica and Kimberly shared a common vision for wine, and Erica immediately recognized the quality of Pfendler's three estate vineyards.

"I wanted to capture not only the trademark character of Pfendler's three estate vineyards, located on the west side of Sonoma Mountain but also the elegant personality of Kimberly Pfendler herself" says Stancliff.

The 2019 vintage enjoyed a beautiful harvest with even ripening. Due to the Petaluma Gap's cool Pacific breezes and ocean fog, which funnel in from the Estero Americano, south of Bodega Bay, the resulting fruit was delicate, expressive and vibrant. Erica's winemaking practices were gentle, applied mindfully to guide the wines into being. The 2019 Chardonnay is a blend of fruit from Pfendler's lower elevation estate site and the 2019 Pinot Noir grapes come from Pfendler's Helgren Vineyard, the highest of Pfendler's three estate vineyards.

About Pfendler Vineyards

Pfendler Vineyards was founded by Kimberly Pfendler in 2007 with the goal of making world-class, elegant Pinot Noir and Chardonnay from her family's mountain property in the Petaluma Gap region of the Sonoma Coast AVA.

Kimberly's late husband, Peter Pfendler, planted the family's first vineyards in 1992, and went on to plant over 200 acres including the very first vineyards in the Petaluma Gap's Crown. Pfendler currently farms 19 acres of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay on three estate vineyards in the emerging Petaluma Gap region of the Sonoma Coast AVA. The vineyards extend from the top of the Pfendler mountain ranch to its base, allowing a tremendous variety of sun and foggy climates to produce a broad range of flavors, resulting in elegant and beautifully complex wine.

Pfendler Vineyards produces a Pinot Noir (\$55) and a Chardonnay (\$45).