



Olivia Wright
Director of Winemaking



“My dream is to make wines that are elegant and timeless,” states Olivia Wright. A lofty aspiration, but one for which Olivia is perfectly suited. Spending a few summers in Bordeaux as a child put her on the right path, if not the Right Bank, but it was her studies at the University of California, Davis that firmly set her course. A freshman year visit to Spain and a tour of the Frank Gehry-designed Marqués de Riscal winery in Rioja, led to her personal wine “Aha!” moment—a taste of Riscal’s famed Barón de Chirel bottling. Elegant and timeless. Watchwords for any aspiring winemaker.

From there, Olivia hit the ground running - and occasionally, stomping. Her path led her to working harvests at Mumm Napa and Isabel Estate in New Zealand, but it was in the vineyards of Santa Barbara, at Dierberg & Star Lane Vineyards, “where I really fell in love with winemaking and winegrowing.” Winemaker Tyler Thomas, Olivia noticed, “showed up every day to the winery genuinely SO excited to ferment stuff.” To anyone who knows Olivia, it’s apparent she shares that excitement for fermenting stuff - usually grapes, but let’s not tie her hands.

Today, as Director of Winemaking at Rodney Strong Wine Estates, Olivia is charged with crafting Rodney Strong’s estate collection of wines, as well as directing the technical aspects of winery operations across the portfolio. Initially brought on in 2018 to oversee the winery’s quality control lab, she has enjoyed steadily growing and expanding her duties over the years. She takes pride in working alongside our talented production team to ensure every detail receives meticulous attention.

Raised in Houston, Texas by two airline pilots, Olivia developed a love for exploring the world that remains strong. Whether traveling to new countries or simply exploring the world of wine through a glass, curiosity continues to guide her path. At her home in Sonoma County, she enjoys taking advantage of the bountiful hiking and cycling trails. You might also catch her enjoying the area’s vibrant cultural life through live theater, concerts, and comedy shows.

But it’s wine that truly rules her passions, and her excitement to ferment stuff. “Half the fun of being in the wine industry,” she notes, “is that there is always something more to learn.” And the reward? “Hands down,” Olivia says, “it’s the opportunities to share a bottle with family and friends.”

