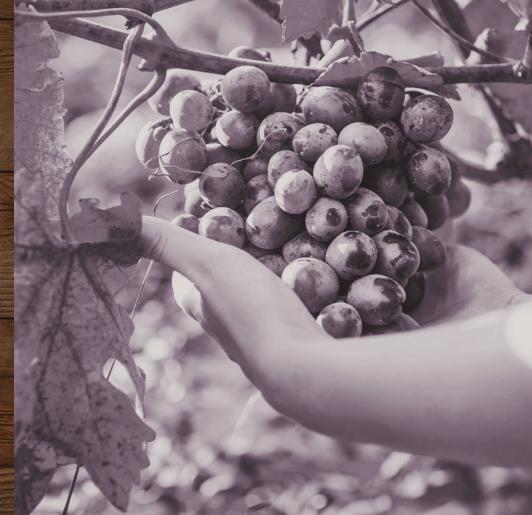


Cherry Pie



“The journey
from the grape
to the bottle
is one I would
happily spend
a lifetime
pursuing.”

Barbara Ignatowski

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Winemaker | Cherry Pie



Barbara Ignatowski has a bit of the Pinot Noir whisperer in her. She's passionate about this persnickety grape and knows just how to coax it to its finest expression. Barbara is intrigued by how Pinot's personality is differently expressed in California's best appellations, from the Carneros vineyards of Napa and Sonoma to the Russian River to Monterey and Santa Barbara. She puts her palate to work as she assembles the distinctive appellation wines for each vintage of Cherry Pie.

Barbara has been in the wine business for 20 years, starting in hospitality. Many become smitten with the idea of winemaking and soon become put off by the challenges. Barbara had the moxie to work her way up through the production ranks, starting as Lab Manager then Enologist at William Hill Winery, then Assistant Winemaker for Cartlidge & Browne (now a Vintage Wine Estates brand). Most recently, Barbara was Assistant Winemaker at The Ranch Winery, overseeing complex projects for Plata Partners. She was appointed Cherry Pie Winemaker in January, 2018 upon the acquisition of the brand by Vintage Wine Estates.

A nature lover, Barbara spends her free time outdoors, hiking and kayaking—Tomales Bay is a favorite spot for paddling with the sting rays and leopard sharks. She and her chef husband, who reside in Napa, are also expert mushroom foragers, crawling about in the mud searching for chanterelles, black trumpets and hedgehogs. These treasures go to good use in savory risottos and Barbara's specialty—flatbread with caramelized shallots and black trumpet mushrooms. (Note that these earthy dishes pair perfectly with with Cherry Pie Pinot Noir). Family dog Woody, a large and exuberant Shepherd, Malamute and “some kind of red dog” mix, is often invited along on outdoor activities—with the exception of mushroom hunting. “He tends to step on the mushrooms,” explains Barbara.

Lover of wine, food, nature and dogs, Barbara's calm demeanor, steady approach and hands-on expertise from vineyard to cellar seem to be just the right combination to capture the magic of Pinot Noir that is evident in every bottle of Cherry Pie.