



LINDSEY HAUGHTON, WINEMAKER:

While finishing her Bachelor of Science in Enology at Fresno State University, Lindsey worked as an assistant winemaker and tasting room manager at a local Fresno winery, Engelmann Cellars. Upon graduating in 2008 she looked to Napa Valley for work and landed at Heitz Cellars as a cellar intern for the 2009 harvest, learning all facets of ultra-premium Cabernet Sauvignon cellar production.



From there, Haughton moved into gaining experience on the volume side of the wine business, where double shifts for bottling were commonplace and scheduling and planning were key. Haughton joined the Martin Ray team in 2012 as an enologist with a quick promotion to assistant winemaker, a short six months later. Working as an enologist and lab manager in a fast-paced environment and having boutique winemaking experience added up to a perfect match for Martin Ray Winery. While Lindsey has been solely responsible for the last 5 vintages as assistant winemaker, she recently assumed the role as principle winemaker. Her appreciation of both the nuanced and the bold translates to her crafting the wines of Martin Ray. Utilizing sourcing from prime vineyards throughout the North Coast as well as Santa Cruz, she strives to deliver balanced concentration and complexity. With the help of the seasoned and dedicated Martin Ray cellar crew, Lindsey aims to make each wine a reflection of its place, to let each vineyard and region speak to its unique slice of California. While producing a good number of small-lot wines and a few that amount to enough for national distribution, she continues to enhance the quality of each lot throughout the portfolio with a very strong philosophical stance on winemaking.

“I hear the term ‘Rockstar Winemaker’ thrown around quite a bit in this industry,” says Lindsey... “Rockstars are frontmen, divas, they work for the spotlight and the applause. If I had to liken our winemaking philosophy to that same metaphor, I’d say we’d be more comfortable to fall into the ‘Roadie’ category. We take great pride in what we do backstage. We’re satisfied to work until we drop so the wines can be the Rockstar.”

Lindsey grew up on the high desert of Southern California, enjoying peaceful solitude as well as freewheeling dirt bike acceleration. While Sonoma County is quite the departure from her upbringing, and the skill required to create such an expansive portfolio is consuming, she still finds time to take in the beauty and abundance of variety offered in Wine Country. With so many wines and various blends to taste throughout the day, Lindsey admits that, when the day is over, she reaches for a small batch bourbon or a local microbrew to cleanse her palate.