



CHANTAL FORTHUN WINEMAKER, FLOWERS VINEYARDS & WINERY

For over a decade of the winery's 30-year legacy, Winemaker Chantal Forthun has led the winemaking program at Flowers Vineyards & Winery. Since joining in 2012, she has championed Flowers' singular goal of making exceptional Pinot Noir and Chardonnay that capture – and even amplify – the wild natural spirit of the far Sonoma Coast.

This quest drives everything Chantal and her team do, from land stewardship and geologic study of Flowers' coastal estate vineyards to nurturing long-term partnerships with multi-generational family growers to “non-additive” winemaking that preserves the pure character of the fruit from the Sonoma Coast.

“Our vineyards on the far reaches of the Sonoma Coast are defined by extreme elevation, coastal adjacency, dense forests, and geologically diverse soils. We call it wilderness winemaking. To honor the essence and energy of these unique sites, we craft our wines without compromise.”

Prior to joining Flowers, Chantal worked with several industry pioneers specializing in organic and biodynamic farming (often at elevation) and native fermentation. She has made wine at Oak Ridge Winery, Rhys Vineyards, and Bonny Doon Vineyard—where, under Randall Grahm, she learned biodynamic farming and natural winemaking in the creation of their terroir-driven wines. A stint at Quartz Reef Winery in the Central Otago region of New Zealand sparked the passion for Pinot Noir and Chardonnay that she brings to her role at Flowers.

Chantal is a California native, having grown up surrounded by agriculture in the Central Valley. She holds degrees in Biology and Botany from Chico State. Just a few weeks into her first winemaking job, while barrel fermenting Chardonnay, Chantal knew she'd found the right vocation—one that engages all the senses; involves science, curiosity, creativity, and dedication; and inspires camaraderie through close teamwork.