



KARI AURINGER

WINEMAKER

After a successful career as a graphic designer and entrepreneur, Kari's desire to begin a career as a winemaker lured her from Chicago to the Bay area and eventually to Napa Valley. She was determined to make the transition from designing wine labels and drinking great wine to her ultimate goal of making wine.

With the purchase of half a ton of grapes and a book on winemaking, she embarked on a whole new adventure. While experimenting with winemaking at home, she began working with some of California's great winemakers and also managed to put herself through enology school. She spent six years working with vintner-consultant, Celia Welch on many of Napa's Cult Cabs including the 100-point Scarecrow, Lindstrom, Hollywood & Vine, and Keever.

Kari describes herself as a hands-on winemaker and has expertise in all aspects of the process from vineyard to bottle. Her style is all about rolling up her sleeves and staying intimately involved with every step of the intricate process, from vineyard sourcing and hands-on berry sorting to the myriad details of winemaking, sensory analysis and the infinitely nuanced art and science of blending. If you don't find her tasting barrel samples in the winery, she is probably out kicking the dirt in a vineyard.

Kari is a rising star and believes her success is a combination of dedication, hard work, talent and working with great people. Kari puts it best when she says, "As I look back on a career that has included several highly regarded cult wines, making really good wine is definitely a team sport, and I've been on some fantastic teams."