

LISA LEE

WINEMAKER AT CHARLES R VINEYARDS

WHAT IS YOUR WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY?

I like to approach winemaking as helping usher the grapes and wines into being what they are meant to be. Sometimes that means standing back and deciding if you need to troubleshoot to help bring balance, or changing your initial plan because the grapes have a different idea of how they want to shine. What I love about working in a small winery is that I get to be part of every step of the process. Helping each wine reveal its own strength and personality is truly satisfying.

WHAT PROMPTED YOU TO PURSUE WINEMAKING AS A CAREER?

Time around the table with family and friends has always been a key tenet of how my family gathers and connects with one another. Wine and food are two integral parts of creating that connection. In my family, good food and wine are the cornerstones to friendship, laughter and important decision making. My grandparents have grown and sold grapes since the 1980's, but never made wine for themselves. It was a dream of my grandfather to have a working winery on their vineyard property. When I expressed an interest in learning how to make wine, they were all too happy to donate the grapes.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE WINE TASTING EXPERIENCE?

I was lucky enough to travel to France a couple years ago. We took the train from Paris to Reims and were part of the first tour of the day through the caves of Taittinger. To experience one of my favorite Champagnes in the caves that were dug in the 1300's was unforgettable. To make the day even more exciting, there was a Russian dignitary visiting the winery that morning, so we kept getting shuttled from room to room to avoid the media frenzy.

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE GROWING UP?

I so badly wanted to be a dolphin trainer at SeaWorld. My 8 year old brain thought this meant I should study marine biology. When I realized marine biologists were very real scientists who had nothing to do with riding dolphins like water skis, I worked on a new plan.

WHAT BRINGS YOU THE GREATEST JOY?

My tiny dog, spirit animal and best friend under 6 pounds... Chompers Lee Sharp is a teeny chiweenie who showed up to our doorstep after being found almost 10 years ago on the railroad tracks in San Leandro. She is the best reminder that great things come in small packages.

WHAT WEIRD FOOD COMBINATION TO YOU REALLY ENJOY?

Fresh watermelon topped with French's yellow mustard. It totally works.



"Seeing people share, laugh, fill each other's glasses, toast celebrations, express condolences, be together and commune over wine they enjoy and that I may have had a part in creating, is soul filling and truly gratifying."

- Lisa Lee,
Charles R Vineyards



PROUD MEMBER OF THE
LIVERMORE VALLEY
WINEGROWERS
ASSOCIATION

CHARLES R VINEYARDS

CLIMB TO THE PEAK OF WINE PERFECTION

Nestled among ancient oaks and rolling hills at the end of a country road, our family winery produces small lots of award-winning, handcrafted wine. We hope to delight you with our fine wine and small country winery. Join us for a picnic and meet the family.

HISTORY

Charles R Vineyards is a family owned and operated winery committed to making fine wines. The Bartlett Family has called the Livermore Valley home for more than three decades and started producing wines in 2002. With 100 percent of all grapes sourced from the Livermore Valley, the wine selection includes award-winning white and red varietals, including a popular dessert wine.

Charles Richard (Dick) Bartlett is the operations manager and supervises the wine cellar. Bonnie is the office manager and insures everything runs smoothly and efficiently. You can meet both in the tasting room on a regular basis. Considered the core of Charles R, knowledgeable associates staff the tasting room, assist with wine making and provide many other valuable services.

Briefly travel the old mining road to find a tranquil tasting room nestled among oak trees. Photos and artifacts tell the history of the mining area and the transformation to today's winery. The patio, built in 2008, is the perfect place to have a picnic and enjoy your favorite wine or host an intimate private celebration or corporate event. If you don't hear live music, you will enjoy the sounds of nature's beauty.

WINES & VINES

We invite you to find your special spot in our tranquil patio garden setting and welcome you to bring your favorite delicious snacks, enjoy our wine and relax. The atmosphere is warm, friendly and casual. Members of the Miners Wine Club visit regularly to explore new offerings and converse with other guests, members of the Bartlett family and the tasting room team.

The wonderful back patio is a perfect place to relax, enjoy the scenic Livermore views and sip a glass of wine. We offer wine by the glass or share a bottle with a group of friends. You are welcome to bring a picnic lunch. Check our Events page for scheduled entertainment.



TASTING ROOM

8195 Crane Ridge Road,
Livermore, CA 94550

Friday-Sunday:
12 - 4:30 pm

(925) 454-3040
www.charlesrvineyards.com



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