



Bennett Valley Cellars



WINEMAKER Toni Stockhausen

Toni Stockhausen was predestined to be a winemaker.

Toni was born in Australia's famed Hunter Valley, where her father, Karl Stockhausen, originally from Hamburg, Germany, was the winemaker at the then tiny Lindeman's winery. Living at the winery with her family, she was at her father's side and watched his winemaking skill grow Lindeman's production from 500 to 30,000 tons.

In 1984, she returned to her winemaking roots, working as the Assistant Winemaker at Tisdall Winery in Victoria. While at Tisdall Winery, she earned her degree in Enology and Viticulture from Charles Sturt University. In 1986, she was promoted to Winemaker at Tisdall, until her departure in 1994.

In 1996, Toni joined Mildara Blass (Fosters Group) to head the production of red wine harvested from Coonawarra. She also traveled throughout Europe to visit family in Germany and taste wines in Burgundy and the Rhône Valley of France.

In 1999, Toni moved to Monterey County, California, to oversee the production of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Chardonnay at Golden State Vintners in Soledad, California. In 2002, Toni relocated with Foster's to Sonoma County as Winemaker for Windsor Vineyards.



In 2008, Toni met the Zanin family and was hired as the Chief Technical Winemaker for ATP (American Tartaric Products). Shortly thereafter, the Zanin Family (owners of ATP) bought the 40-acre Simpatico Ranch in the Bennett Valley, Sonoma County and appointed Toni as Winemaker for their new Bennett Valley Cellars. Here, Toni works closely with owners Emilio and Luca Zanin to produce both the limited production Estate Pinot Noir and Chardonnay series from their estate grapes, and the popular Bin Series Pinot Noir and Chardonnay from Sonoma County.

Toni's exposure to traditional European wines, as well as great wines from Australia and California, has shaped her winemaking approach towards a more classical style. As Toni asserts, "My role as winemaker is to pay attention to the details; enhancing the fruit characters and hand-crafting the wines specifically to achieve quality flavors, aromas and mouth-feel. Part of the pleasure of enjoying wine is the taste of each unique vintage and the flavor profile which prevails in each particular growing season."

Family Estate Vineyards In Bennett Valley, Sonoma, California