



JEFF CRAWFORD

WINEMAKER



Born in Alaska and raised in Minnesota, Starmont Winemaker Jeff Crawford headed to Hawaii after high school to escape the cold. Fully thawed in 1997, he moved back to the mainland to earn his B.A. in Economics with a Minor in Philosophy from UC Davis.

It was during his time at UC Davis that Jeff developed a passion for wine. His burgeoning enthusiasm inspired him to take a job as a harvest intern at Gallo after graduation. In 2007, Jeff headed to Napa and joined the Starmont cellar crew. He was quickly promoted to Cellar Master, then in 2010, Jeff became Starmont's Assistant Winemaker and in 2014 he was elevated to Winemaker.

Jeff's vinous perspective has been shaped by his journeys to less-traveled winegrowing locales around the globe including Oregon, Germany and Greece. "I'm constantly trying to expand my wine horizons through travel, reading, education, conversation and tasting. Every so often I actually *drink* some wine too. I just received my Level 3 WSET Certificate and will continue to take classes and attend seminars in order to sharpen my knowledge and hone my craft."

With Jeff's input, Starmont has implemented new protocols to further ensure that the wines are of the highest quality and true to their origins. "In many ways Starmont is a microcosm of the Carneros region," says Jeff. "Our wines are classically balanced and subtle. Structure and evenhandedness are the rule rather than the exception. And, although we are focused on Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, we also produce some pretty impressive Merlots and Syrahs."

When not roaming Starmont's vineyards, Jeff enjoys travelling, beer brewing, coffee roasting and wine tasting. He lives in Petaluma with his wife who is also a winemaker.

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