

The Top 10 Female Winemakers in Northern California

BY KATIE SWEENEY | DINING + DRINKING, NEWS, POWER PLAYERS | JUNE 20, 2017

In 1886, **Josephine Tychson** became the first woman to own and operate a winery in Napa Valley. The sudden death of her husband forced Tychson to take up the farming and winemaking herself. For eight years she ran **Tychson Cellars** producing 30,000 gallons of Zinfandel, Riesling, and Burgundy. Today she is recognized by **Freemark Abbey**, the winery that currently sits in the spot where Tychson Cellars once was, as a female pioneer. It is her can-do spirit that can be seen in the ten female winemakers listed, in alphabetical order, here. Like Tychson, these ladies are paving the way for new generations while making names for themselves in what is predominantly a male-driven industry. We raise a glass to these women, and if you come across a bottle of their wines, we advise you to do the same.

Katie Carter, *Wattle Creek and Lyeth*



"There is a dynamic balance of considerations from vine to bottle, which I love coordinating. The microbiological community actually doing the work (fermentation!) is fascinating to me, and is never the same."

Katie Carter is one of the wine industry's most up-and-coming young winemakers. Spend just two seconds with the bubbly blonde and you can't help but feel her enthusiasm for her profession, in particular the science behind winemaking. Eleven years after graduating from college—she studied integrative biology at **UC Berkeley**—Carter was named winemaker at two of the **Boisset Collection's** Sonoma-based wineries, **Wattle Creek** and **Lyeth**. Although she didn't study enology, she was easily capable of translating her biology background to winemaking. When asked what she loves most about winemaking, her answer is long-winded, but passionate. "We are but stewards of the microbiological environment, ensuring the most optimal conditions for activity. The blend of science, hard labor, and ultimately sensory judgment is captivating and always a unique challenge. Plus, crafting a tangible product for enhancing one's pleasure of living is awesome!"