

CHELSEA BARRETT
winemaker



“I want wines to be balanced, delicious and showcase the vineyard. I love keeping up with the latest research and experiments, and I’m always refining the details and striving for improvement.”

Chelsea Barrett grew up among winemakers. Her father, Bo, has been making wine at Chateau Montelena with his family since 1972. Her mother, Heidi, is considered one of the world’s best – she was the founding winemaker at Screaming Eagle, Dalla Valle, and her own brands La Sirena and Amuse Bouche, among others. Her grandfather Richard Peterson is also a renowned winemaker.

Chelsea herself grew up working for the family – in the Montelena cellar and vineyard – from a young age, including summers in the tasting room during college. She was drawn into pursuing winemaking from a love of food, chemistry, and art. She attended the University of California Davis and graduated in 2010 with a degree in Viticulture and Enology.

After college, Chelsea traveled the world’s wine regions extensively and interned at Mayer am Pfarplaz in Austria, Two Hands in Australia, and Opus One in Napa Valley. She started as enologist at Joel Gott Wines in 2012, where she was promoted to assistant winemaker a year later, then to winemaker in 2017. In 2017, she also joined Heidi as co-winemaker for Amuse Bouche and Au Sommet. She also launched her own label, Aviatrix in collaboration with her mother and sister.

Chelsea enjoys making wines in classic styles that are true to the varietal and sense of place.

Chelsea lives in Calistoga with her husband, daughters Rosie and Violet, and a husky-german shepherd mix. In her free time, she enjoys gardening, home improvement, cooking, skiing, scuba diving, and reading.