



BOARD CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES

Michael Silacci, Winemaker/Viticulturist

While earning diplomas in viticulture and enology, Michael Silacci interned in Muscadet, Cognac and Bordeaux. His first full time job in the wine industry was as viticulturist/enologist at Beaulieu Vineyard, where he joined the Napa Valley Vineyard Technical Group and co-founded the Napa Valley Viticultural Fair.

Michael has overseen viticulture and winemaking at Opus One for the past twenty-three years. Prior to his current appointment, Michael spent six years as winemaker at Stag's Leap Wine Cellars and two years as winemaker at King Estate in Oregon. He has also made wine in France and Chile. He holds a master's degree in viticulture from U.C. Davis in addition to undergraduate degrees in enology and viticulture from U.C. Davis and the Université de Bordeaux.

Michael ensures that the connection between viticulture and winemaking at Opus One is seamless, making classic wines that express time and place and reflecting the philosophy of founders Baron Philippe de Rothschild and Robert Mondavi. Opus One produces ultra-premium wines at its Napa Valley winery in Oakville, California. The 2019 vintage is now distributed in all 50 U.S. States and 90 countries worldwide.

Michael served on the Napa Valley Grapegrowers Board of Directors from 2013- 2021 and held the President role from 2020-2021.

Mark Pulido, Owner, Pulido-Walker

Mark, an advisor, investor, and philanthropist, brings deep experience as a CEO and board member of public, private, and not-for-profit organizations

Mark brings more than three decades of executive leadership experience to his wine brand, Pulido~Walker. Mark has a long history in the Napa Valley, building relationships and putting down roots in the community. Pulido-Walker's Mt. Veeder Estate is a testament to the family's long-term commitment to Napa Valley and the addition of the Policy Estate in Yountville extends their view toward the future.

Mark's ardent determination to craft extraordinary wines authentic to the unique terroir of their three exceptional Napa Valley estate vineyards. Working with winemaker Thomas Rivers Brown at each of their vineyard sites, they focus on the natural alchemy of geography, soil, climate, and clone.

Before moving permanently to the Napa Valley and starting Pulido-Walker with his wife Donna, Mark led several of the most prominent healthcare and technology companies in the world

Cathy Corison, Winemaker, Founding Partner, Corison

Cathy's winemaking journey began nearly 50 years ago when she took a wine appreciation course at Pomona College on a complete whim. She fell in love with wine for all the usual reasons, but, as a Biology major, was also taken by the fact that wine is the result of a fascinating collaboration among a series of living systems.

Two years later she graduated, and two days after that, arrived in the Napa Valley, bent on making wine. A master's degree in Enology at UC Davis followed, and then a harvest internship at Freemark Abbey in 1978. Winemaking positions included Yverdon in 1979-1980 and then Chappellet Vineyard for the 1980s.

In 1987, toward the end of her tenure at Chappellet, there was a wine inside her that needed to get out and she began to buy grapes and barrels (instead of cars and houses). Using other wineries' excess capacity while continuing to moonlight at Staglin, York Creek and Long Meadow Ranch, Corison Winery was born.

Corison Winery is a small family farm producing delicious Cabernet Sauvignons that speak of place. Over three decades, Cathy Corison and William Martin have built a special home to celebrate the best of our little corner of the world, benchland in the heart of the Napa Valley. Known for power and elegance, Corison wines are balanced to grace the table and are recognized throughout the world for their longevity and consistency.