



# Alicia Sylvester

## Winemaker

Alicia Sylvester joined the Frank Family Vineyards team in 2024, bringing with her more than a decade of global winemaking experience, a “can-do anything” attitude and a magnetic sense of humor. She collaborates closely with longtime Senior Winemaker & General Manager Todd Graff to craft the winery’s portfolio of world class Napa Valley wines.

A California native, Alicia’s deep love for the state’s agriculture is rooted in her upbringing on her family’s almond farm and 20-acre Zinfandel vineyard in the Central Valley. Her early exposure to farming and involvement in 4-H fostered a strong work ethic and helped shape her career path.

Alicia earned a bachelor’s degree in agriculture business with a minor in wine and viticulture from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. After completing a winemaking internship at Provenance Vineyards in 2011, she found her true calling in the cellar and never looked back. Inspired by travel and the diverse wine regions around the world, she worked harvests internationally, gaining invaluable knowledge from her experience in regions such as Australia, Italy, South Africa and Argentina. In 2013, Alicia returned to the U.S. and eagerly jumped into harvest at Chateau Montelena, where she proudly became the first woman to receive the “golden shovel” award since 1975, shoveling a total of 165 tons of grape must throughout harvest. The following year, she became a Chardonnay harvest enologist at Sonoma-Cutrer, focusing on crafting high-quality, terroir-driven Chardonnays. She later joined Foley Family Wines while simultaneously earning her wine certificate from University of California, Davis.

During her almost ten years with Foley, Alicia honed her abilities working with an extensive array of both vineyards and varieties. First, she was an enologist then assistant winemaker at Lancaster Estate in Sonoma’s Alexander Valley, before eventually transitioning to head winemaker at Merus Wines based in St. Helena, Napa Valley. Both well-known for Cabernet Sauvignon, she was thrilled to join Banshee Wines in Sonoma in 2020 where she worked with site-specific cool climate Chardonnay and Pinot Noir and oversaw the production of 18 unique wines.

Outside the winery, Alicia enjoys traveling, hiking, backpacking, crafting and catching the latest music festival. She is an active member of Women for WineSense, serving on the planning committee for the Winemaker’s and Viticultural RoundTable.

