

CINDER

About Our Winemaker, Melanie Krause

Melanie's love of the land began as a small child when she, along with her two brothers, would work her parent's huge garden in Boise. They'd take all those lovely ingredients and under the guidance of her mother, cook and preserve most of their own food. The garden also included a collection of 40+ varieties of grapes, thanks to her dad. This is ultimately where she began training her palate and where her passion for flavors began -- as a small girl in her mother's kitchen.

Melanie attended Washington State University and due to her love of plants, started working in wheat genetics and breeding. Besides taking classes and talking to the plants in the greenhouse, she cycled for the school team, raced in triathlons and one day met this rugby player named Joe who later became her husband. She graduated from WSU in 2000 with a Bachelor's degree in Biology and Spanish.

After some travels in Asia, she returned to the Northwest and landed a job working for Stimson Lane in Washington as a vineyard technician in 2001. Job description: riding an ATV for 10 hours a day looking for bugs, checking on irrigation, and getting a tremendously sexy farmer's tan! She loved it and learned a lot from the people she worked with who are incredibly knowledgeable in viticulture. This is important because great winemaking starts in the vineyard.

She then moved on to a job as an enologist at Chateau Ste. Michelle's Canoe Ridge Estate Winery. A promotion to Assistant Winemaker followed in 2003. She helped make 400,000 cases of red wine each year for Chateau Ste. Michelle while studying under three great Head Winemakers: Bob Bertheau, Ron Bunnell and Kendall Mix.

In 2006, Melanie and Joe got married and started their own winery label, Cinder, with the idea of crafting world-class wine in the newly minted Snake River Valley AVA in Southwest Idaho & Southeast Oregon. Since then, it's been a wonderful experience collaborating and working with the local growers and expressing the beauty of the Snake River Valley. Their passion and dedication to their wines is only paled by their devotion to their two beautiful children, Charli and Rowen, who keep them on their toes and make all of the hard work and sacrifice worth it.

For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact Joe Schnerr, 208-376-4023 or Joe@CinderWines.com.

Website: CinderWines.com