



DUCKHORN WINE COMPANY NAMES RENEE ARY WINEMAKER FOR DUCKHORN VINEYARDS

NAPA VALLEY, Calif. – February 11, 2014 – Duckhorn Wine Company is proud to announce the promotion of Renee Ary to winemaker for Duckhorn Vineyards. Ary becomes only the fourth winemaker since the inaugural vintage of Napa Valley Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon in 1978, following in the footsteps of legendary founding winemaker Tom Rinaldi, and acclaimed winemakers Mark Beringer and Bill Nancarrow. Ary joined Duckhorn Vineyards in 2003, and spent years working alongside her predecessors, honing her craft and refining her palate. She has worked in every area of production in a multitude of roles, including lab manager, enology manager, assistant winemaker and most recently, associate winemaker. Ary will be responsible for the entire Duckhorn Vineyards portfolio, which includes Napa Valley Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Sauvignon Blanc, and a soon to be released Chardonnay.

“Renee is a master and champion of the Duckhorn Vineyards style,” says Duckhorn Wine Company President and CEO Alex Ryan. “This is a well-deserved promotion for Renee, and promises to be a seamless transition for our Duckhorn Vineyards winemaking program. There is not a barrel of wine currently aging that has not been touched by Renee’s hand. She is a talented winemaker as well as a hands-on, collaborative leader, with an infectious work ethic and a comprehensive understanding of our vineyards and our winemaking practices.”

After graduating from Saint Mary’s College with a degree in chemistry and art, Renee joined the laboratory of Robert Mondavi Winery in Oakville, where she spent four years working closely with winemaking luminaries Genevieve Janssens, Steve Leveque and Richard Sowalsky.

“Throughout my career, I’ve been fortunate to learn from some of the finest winemakers in California,” says Ary. “Working with the best, I’ve learned to challenge myself on every level, from a technical understanding of winemaking to the artistry of the blend. I’ve also learned to view my role as a winemaker as part of an ongoing story. At Duckhorn Vineyards, I am contributing to the legacy of a great winery, and building on the work of the talented people who laid the foundation for excellence.”

In recent years, Ary has largely been responsible for overseeing all day-to-day Duckhorn Vineyards winemaking. “From our own estate vineyards to legendary sites like Three Palms, I am blessed to work with some of Napa Valley’s most exceptional grapes,” adds Ary. “When you work with fruit of this quality, there is no recipe or formula. My job is to let the vineyards speak and convey the soul of the wine.”

About Duckhorn Wine Company

Duckhorn Wine Company has helped set the standard for American fine wine for almost four decades. The Duckhorn family includes Duckhorn Vineyards, Goldeneye, Paraduxx, Migration, Decoy and Canvasback. With grapes selected from estate vineyards, as well as a variety of sought-after vineyard sites, each winery is presented with a canvas of lots from which to blend its wines. Focused on careful grape selection, innovative winemaking techniques and a premium barrel-aging program, Duckhorn Wine Company is founded on an unwavering commitment to quality. Duckhorn Wine Company wines are available throughout the United States, on five continents, and in 40 countries. For more information, visit www.duckhorn.com.

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