

Shauna White, Winemaker

Shauna White, Winemaker, Adamo Estate Winery
Shauna grew up in Kelowna, BC, spending her days in her family's vineyard, where her love for winemaking grew. Following her passion and in the footsteps of her aunt (renowned organic winemaker Ann Sperling) seemed natural, so she embarked on the formal part of her education.

Upon completing her Wine and Viticultural Technician certification at Niagara College, Shauna spent her practicum at Domaine Laroche in Chablis, France, where her love for Chardonnay and travelling was born! Shauna continued to broaden her horizons at Ponzi Vineyards (Oregon), Brokenwood Wines (Australia), Les Clos Jordanne (Ontario), Mt Difficulty (New Zealand), and at Road 13 Vineyards (British Columbia).

She settled at Adamo Estate Winery in 2014 where she continues to draw on her passion and experience to grow and harvest fruit to make wines with love in every bottle! At Adamo Estate Winery, Shauna works with many different grape varieties to express their sense of place and varietal characteristics from where they are grown. This includes; Chardonnay, Pinot Blanc, Pinot Gris, Pinot Noir, Gamay Noir, Riesling, Vidal, Muscat, Malbec, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Viognier, Marsanne and Roussanne.

Vanessa McKean, Vineyard Manager

Vanessa grew up on a Black Angus beef & Belgian horse farm in the Blue Mountains, attending Niagara College for Wine & Viticulture and a post-grad program in Wine Business Management. During that time, she worked for Arterra, gained experience in retail at Jackson Triggs and cellar experience at Inniskillin, joining the vineyard team in scouting for pests and diseases.

She then worked as Assistant Winemaker and Retail Manager (their first employee) at Georgian Hills Vineyards. As business grew, Vanessa shifted to full-time Winemaker, continuing her beverage production education with courses from the Cider & Perry Academy at Cornell University. Soon after, Vanessa became a Cidermaker for Ardiel Cider.

Outside of work Vanessa loves all things winter! Snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, snowboarding, broomball, snowshoeing and sleigh rides with her family. Alongside her partner Brad, she enjoys making maple syrup, bee keeping, and in the summer enjoys hiking and tending their large vegetable garden.

Vanessa was drawn to Adamo Estate Winery and our use of geotextiles in the vineyard, and was excited for the opportunity to be a part of a larger winemaking team.

Renan Theilloux, Associate Winemaker

Born and bred in Bordeaux, Renan Theilloux's passion for winemaking was inspired by his French grandmother, a wine connoisseur who taught him how to appreciate good wine. As a teenager, Renan schooled his palate by winning horse riding competitions where top prizes often earned him quality bottles of wine. Graduating with a wine-making degree from the University of Toulouse, Renan worked on a small 25ha winery in Bordeaux where he was completely hands-on in production.

In a time of economic uncertainty for French winemakers, Renan became one of a new breed of fly-in winemakers, travelling and working in iconic wineries like Flowers and Sonoma Cutrer in the US and Hawkes Bay and Marlborough in New Zealand. The award-winning Sileni Estates, acclaimed Kim Crawford Wines and Indevin New Zealand, a state-of-the-art custom crush winery, providing valuable experience for the artisan winemaker.

After a stint back in France, working in sales and later as a winemaker for the Ducourt family vineyard in Bordeaux, Renan decided to make a permanent move to the southern hemisphere.

Settling in Central Otago, a top 5 new world wine producing regions, he worked for 5 years as a winemaker for Alexandra Vintners, a contract winery producing premium wine for their clients.