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WONDER WOMEN: 10 FEMALE CALIFORNIA WINEMAKERS TO WATCH

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The Golden State was one of the first pockets of the wine world to champion women winemakers, with the likes of Zelma Long and Merry Edwards blazing a trail for others to follow.

Today, 14% of the winemakers in Napa are women, which, while still far lower than it should be, is an encouraging sign of the turning tides in wine. Give it another decade and the figure will hopefully be far higher.

Many of the state's most revered wines have been made by women – from the debut vintage of Screaming Eagle, crafted by Heidi Peterson Barrett, and modern-day 'cult' wine Scarecrow, made by Celia Welch, to Cathy Corison's elegant Cabernets and the myriad wines made by the forward-thinking Helen Turley over the years.

We thought it was high time to celebrate the achievements of these wine pioneers, and at the same time highlight five women winemakers set to become the stars of the future, from Stephanie Terrizzi of Giornata, with beguiling Barbera from Paso Robles, to Helen Keplinger, who is shining a light on Rhône varieties with her highly sought-after single-vineyard wines.

Stephanie Terrizzi

Virginia Lambrix • Cathy Corison • Helen Keplinger
Celia Welch • Heidi Peterson Barrett • Helen Turley
Elizabeth Vianna • Genevieve Janssens • Jenny Wagner

Stephanie Terrizzi

One to watch **Stephanie Terrizzi** fell in love with wine while working at a bar in Illinois, which inspired her to take her WSET sommelier exams and become a wine consultant for Sonoma County's top restaurants, including Ca'Bianca.

Keen to get her hands dirty, after attaining an oenology degree from Fresno State, Terrizzi interned at a number of Napa and Sonoma wineries before becoming the vineyard manager of Luna Matta in Paso Robles, which specialises in Italian varieties.

A decade ago Stephanie launched her own wine project with her husband Brian called Giornata, working with Italian grapes planted at Luna Matta with the aim of making "balanced and subtle" Italian-inspired reds.

Using the same clones employed by Italy's top producers, the pair have won plaudits for their Nebbiolo, Sangiovese, Aglianico and Barbera, and would love to eventually export their wines to Italy. "Nebbiolo is the hardest grape to grow and the most mischievous in the cellar. It has taught me patience and has pushed my creativity to make it work," she says, citing Trentino-based Elisabetta Foradori as her winemaking inspiration.

While looking after twin daughters, Terrizzi also finds time to consult for a number of local wineries and works with Brian on a side project called **Broadside**. Looking ahead, she's keen to be one of the first winemakers in California to make a Nerello Mascalese.



Stephanie Terrizzi (Photo: Erik Castro)

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