



RAM'S GATE  
WINERY · SONOMA

## Orrin Oles

ASSISTANT WINEMAKER



As assistant winemaker for Ram's Gate Winery, Orrin Oles works alongside Director of Winemaking, Joe Nielsen, to produce premium small-lot Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Blanc, Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah with grapes from the finest sites in Sonoma County. With 10 years of hands-on experience, Orrin brings extensive knowledge both in the cellar, as well as in other aspects of hospitality and fine wine.

Before graduating with a degree in Hospitality Management from James Madison University in 2005, Orrin completed an internship with the private Bohemian Club in San Francisco, where he was first introduced to the world of fine wine through an intimate education of the club's wine list. Upon graduating from James Madison, he joined the team at Mt. Vernon Country Club as Food and Beverage Manager in Virginia before traveling back to California to work as a sales representative at Young's Market in 2007. He returned to the Bohemian Club in 2008 where he worked as a purchasing manager and was soon put in charge of managing the wine list and bar. Through this position he realized a love for wine, finding deep joy in educating guests on the club's wine list and discussing wine with others who found something special in each bottle.

In 2010, Orrin took an internship at Williams Selyem Winery, working under renowned winemaker Bob Cabral and learning the ins and outs of Sonoma Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. During this time, he also explored international winemaking with a 2011 harvest internship at Elderton Wines in the Barossa Valley region of Australia, before returning to the United States. While simultaneously pursuing a Winemaking Certificate from UC Davis, Orrin was working his way up at Williams Selyem Winery and, in 2013, he was promoted to cellar master where he held the position until 2018.

In 2018, Orrin joined Ram's Gate as assistant winemaker and is driven each day by the opportunity to work with diverse varieties in boutique size, giving each the attention they deserve to make the best wines possible.

Today, Orrin lives in Terra Linda with his wife and two young sons. When not digging his hands into grape pomace or tasting through barrels with Joe Nielsen, he can be found mountain biking, playing golf or exploring local hiking trails with his family.

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