



## JOSH MENDOZA-WIDAMAN

HEAD ESTATE WINEMAKER

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After 20 years producing highly rated Napa Valley wines, **JOSH MENDOZA-WIDAMAN** found his way back to the Stags' Leap district as head estate winemaker for Pine Ridge Vineyards. Josh is known for his experienced, luxury-minded palate that has produced 90+ ratings on over 90% of all wines made in his career, including Wine Spectator's #1 Wine of the Year in 2016 with Lewis Cellars. He now oversees Pine Ridge's estate vineyards, most notably producing elegant and expressive Cabernet Sauvignon.

Josh's pursuit of winemaking started after working the 1999 vintage at Stags' Leap Winery. During his first harvest spreading stems in the vineyards by moonlight, he tasted a life-changing 1997 Pahlmeyer Merlot that left him inspired to create wine. The combination of hands-on vineyard work and the incredible fruits of a winemaker's labor sealed his desire to enter the wine world. "My path to winemaking started with a wine that left a lasting impression that I use as inspiration in every wine I create," Josh emphasizes.

He quickly transferred to UC Davis where he graduated in 2002 with a BS in Viticulture and Enology and a minor in Applied Biological Systems Technology. In 2019 he received his MBA from Sonoma State University to better support a well-rounded understanding of the wine business. In addition, Josh's time overseas in the Douro, Burgundy, Chile, Greece and Germany broadened his winemaking perspective and skill.

Josh now continues the Pine Ridge Vineyards commitment to create wines that honor their remarkable origins, while allowing his experience and perspective to push the quality of Pine Ridge wines into even higher levels of terroir expression. For Josh, "coming back to the Stags Leap District where it all began for me, and to the iconic steep-walled valley at Pine Ridge Vineyards, gives me a newfound sense of determination to produce some of the best Cabernet Sauvignon wines that Napa Valley and the world have to offer."

Josh lives in Napa with his supportive wife Adrienne, daughter Ava, and son Franklin. He and his family balance the rigors of a winemaking career with an equally enjoyable personal life that includes culinary exploits, snow sports, bicycling, travel, dancing and impromptu backyard three-act plays.