



**MERRY EDWARDS**  
WINERY AND VINEYARDS  
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

## HEIDI VON DER MEHDEN

WINEMAKER  
MERRY EDWARDS WINERY

Heidi grew up in Wine Country. After receiving a degree in chemistry from Santa Clara University in 1997 and teaching high school chemistry in Tanzania, Africa, while serving in the Peace Corps, she decided to put her chemistry background to work at home in the wine industry.



She returned to Sonoma County and became a lab technician for Kenwood Vineyards during the harvest of 2000. She completed four harvests there, working her way up to enologist. In 2004, she joined Mauritsen Winery as assistant winemaker, overseeing the day-to-day activities of the winery.

In 2007, Heidi jumped at the opportunity to work with Richard Arrowood as associate winemaker for Arrowood Winery. After working under his mentorship for three years, Heidi was promoted to winemaker when Richard Arrowood departed. She made Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay and Rhone-style wines, but longed to learn more about her favorite wine, Pinot Noir.

That learning opportunity came in 2015, when Merry Edwards chose Heidi to be her associate winemaker. Working closely with Merry, she has been involved in all aspects of the winemaking process, learning new skills along the way. Almost immediately, Heidi was tackling new projects for the winery and making vineyard and winemaking decisions that previously had been left up to Merry.

At the beginning of the 2018 harvest, Merry announced that Heidi would succeed her as winemaker, becoming the only other person to hold that position at Merry Edwards Winery other than Merry herself. Heidi looks forward to helping the winery continue to thrive for years to come.