



STAG'S LEAP WINE CELLARS

GUILLERMO PEREZ

Senior Vineyard Manager



Guillermo Perez joined Stag's Leap Wine Cellars in April of 2020 as Vineyard Manager and was promoted in 2023 to Sr. Vineyard Manager. Guillermo works closely with Kirk Grace, and they share the same vision on the importance of vineyard sustainability. Guillermo Initiated and is actively managing the transition of the Stag's Leap Wine Cellars Estate vineyards to Certified Organic (CCOF) as well as Regenerative certification. He also brought sheep grazing to FAY & S.L.V. for the first time in 2022 and again in 2023.

Guillermo obtained his B.S. in Business Management from Northeastern Illinois University. He was half-way done with his MBA program at the University of Illinois when he realized that farming was his calling. His family has been farming in Mexico for many generations and he's proud to be a fifth-generation farmer.

During this transition, he received a Master's in Viticulture and Enology from Universidad Politécnica de Madrid in Spain. He interned in the Viticulture Lab, working in vineyards in the Madrid area with world-renowned Professor José Ramón Lissarrague.

After receiving his degree, he completed a 6-month internship with Thibaut Scholasch from Fruition Sciences in collaboration with the National Research Institute for Agriculture of Pech Rouge in Gruissan, which is in the Languedoc-Roussillon region. On his days off, during harvest, he helped out the Domaine de L'Ostal cellar team at a J.M. Cazes winery. He was also a winery and vineyard intern at Etude wines in Carneros.

"WE NEED TO TAKE CARE OF OUR SOILS FOR VINE AND HUMAN HEALTH AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF FARMERS. FAY & S.L.V. ARE HISTORIC NAPA VALLEY VINEYARDS. WE NEED TO MAKE THESE VINEYARDS LAST FOR ANOTHER HUNDRED YEARS OR MORE."

Guillermo Perez

Guillermo's first full-time opportunity was working with Jon Ruel as a Viticulturist at Trefethen Family Vineyards. After Trefethen, he joined Treasury Wine Estates as Assistant Vineyard Manager in North Napa across 15 vineyards with diverse terrain St. Helena, Calistoga, Diamond Mountain, Spring Mountain, and Howell Mountain.

About vineyard management, Guillermo says, "You can make a farming plan for the current growing season, but Mother Nature throws curve balls every year. Adapting, being flexible, having an endless drive for the best quality, and having your boots on the ground is essential. You can't make a case sitting behind a desk; you must get out and shake the bush."