

PRIYANKA FRENCH

WINEMAKER, SIGNORELLO ESTATES

Born and brought up in Mumbai, India and daughter to two academic physicists, Priyanka was an unlikely candidate to venture in the wine industry. Her undergraduate study in Food Technology and Engineering gave her a sneak peak into the world of wine and her passion for microbiology fermented her future aspirations towards winemaking. She's the first Indian to have received the Master of Science in Viticulture and Enology at the University of California – Davis. She also holds a diploma in Enology from the University of Dijon. She built her experience working at wineries in Napa as well as travelling through the regions of Burgundy, Cognac, Bordeaux and New Zealand. She also worked with the Tonnellerie Demptos, a renowned cooperage, establishing the market and providing technical support to wineries in India. Apart from her passion for winemaking, she has also contributed as a wine writer for publications in India. She is currently the Winemaker at Signorello Estate in Napa, where she focuses on premium, estate-grown wines using precision viticulture and restrained winemaking to showcase the fruit expression of the unique site. Her new role also involves rebuilding of the estate, winery and caves post the 2017 fires. When not in the cellar or walking the vineyards with her dog Chloe, Priyanka can be found cooking, exploring the outdoors and reading. Her love for wine is encapsulated in her own words. "It has given me a reason to wake up and learn; there's always so much to learn. I've had the opportunity to meet wonderful people and see the most beautiful places in my pursuit of this field. It has taught me to appreciate the better things in life, and face challenges for every vintage is a challenge, no two things are ever the same."





