



**NEWS RELEASE**

**VINE CLIFF WINERY APPOINTS JOHN WILSON AS WINEMAKER**



*June 20, 2017, Napa...* Nell Sweeney, Proprietress of Oakville, CA based Vine Cliff Winery, has announced the appointment of John Wilson as Winemaker of Vine Cliff. He will be responsible for the 2017 vintage of Vine Cliff wines, most notably the Cabernet Sauvignon from the Oakville estate.

He joins the winery from the Russian River Valley producer, Thomas George Estates, where he has been Winemaker since 2014. While at Thomas George, he designed single-vineyard Burgundy and Rhone style wines. Prior to Thomas George Estates, John was Assistant Winemaker under winemaker and mentor, Ted Lemon, at Littorai Wines, a premium single-vineyard Pinot Noir and Chardonnay producer from Anderson Valley and Sonoma Coast.

While working as Cellar Master at Outpost Wines and Rivers-Marie Wines, John worked directly with winemaker and mentor Thomas Rivers Brown to produce top rated wines for Brown's winemaking clients which include Schrader Cellars, Maybach Family Vineyards and Seaver Vineyards. This

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experience allowed John to work primarily with Cabernet Sauvignon sourced from nearly every appellation within Napa Valley for five consecutive vintages. He is focused on producing premium wines which showcase vineyard, vintage and varietal character.

John holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder. He has worked and traveled extensively throughout the wine regions of Oregon, Chile, Argentina, Piemonte, Rhone and Rioja. He lives in St. Helena with his wife and two daughters.

“John's passion for making great wine is in his working DNA. He comes from working his way up the winemaking chain which will make him an essential partner in our process,” added Nell Sweeney.

**ABOUT VINE CLIFF WINERY:** *Vine Cliff Estate on Silverado Trail has been part of the Napa Valley story since the late 1800s when what later became a ghost winery produced award winning wines for the San Francisco market. It was not until the late 1980s when the Vine Cliff we know today emerged. With the purchase of the Oakville Estate by Nell Sweeney and her family, Vine Cliff regained its position as a premier luxury wine producer, with over 20 hillside acres planted to Cabernet Sauvignon at Oakville and 12 acres to Chardonnay at Los Carneros. The addition of a Tasting Room in nearby St. Helena in 2014 broadened the unique appeal of the Vine Cliff wine and culinary experience.*

*www.vinecliff.com. Telephone 707-944-1364.*

*Winery Address: 7400 Silverado Trail, Napa, CA 94558.*

*Tasting Room Address: 699 St Helena Hwy, St Helena, CA 94574.*

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