



Luisa Ponzi

DIRECTOR OF WINEMAKING AND VITICULTURE



Luisa Ponzi graduated from Portland State University, Portland, Oregon in 1990 with a Bachelor of Science. Following her undergraduate studies, Luisa moved to Beaune, France where she continued her education in viticulture and enology. She worked with Christophe Roumier at Domaine Georges Roumier and attended the CFPPA in Beaune (the first non-French woman to do so) receiving a post graduate degree in enology and viticulture. She worked at the Vietti winery in Piedmonte before returning home to head the winemaking at Ponzi Vineyards in 1993.

Luisa combines her formal winemaking experience with her lifelong work with her father, Dick Ponzi, at their Willamette Valley vineyards and winery. Since 1993, Luisa has brought her knowledge of Burgundian practices combined with her personal experience to the family- owned winery. Together with her sister Maria, they have grown the winery from 10,000 to 40,000 cases, built a new gravity flow winery and beautiful tasting room and have expanded the vineyard plantings from 20 acres to over 160.

ACCOLADES

Recognized as a Wine Industry Leader by Wine Business Monthly in November, 2021

"Luisa Ponzi... one of the brightest stars among the new generation in Oregon." - Paul Gregutt, September 2011

"Ponzi Vineyards remains a reference point for American Pinot Noir with winemaker Luisa Ponzi at the top of her game." - Robert M. Parker's The Wine Advocate, October 2008

"By adding academic knowledge to her unparalleled experience learning from her father, Luisa Ponzi has become one of the most formidable winemakers in the country." - Oregon Wine Report, June 2002

In recent years she has furthered the winery's advancement in viticulture by introducing innovative and progressive techniques to produce the highest quality fruit.

Luisa continues to educate herself through contacts with winemakers around the world, frequent winery tastings and winemaking conferences. She has served on numerous advisory and wine organization boards. She currently sits on the board of the Chehalem Mountain Winegrowers Association and is the Chair of LIVE (Sustainable certifier for the PNW) She recently spearheaded the successful application for Willamette Valley's newest AVA, the Laurelwood District AVA.

Luisa has been honored with awards and accolades, all contributing to Ponzi's heightened stature in the national arena.

She, her husband, fellow winemaker Eric Hamacher, and their four children reside atop the Chehalem Mountains on their Paloma Vineyards with commanding views of the glorious valley.

For nearly 30 years, Luisa's passion and winemaking talent have helped sustain Ponzi Vineyards' 50-year acclaimed tradition of producing some of the world's finest wines.