



# Luisa Ponzi

LEGACY WINEMAKER

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Luisa Ponzi has spent her entire life on vineyards and in wineries. Her parents, Dick and Nancy Ponzi, founded Ponzi Vineyards in 1970 and Luisa grew up working and learning from her winemaker father. She graduated from Portland State University in Portland, Oregon in 1990 with a Bachelor of Science and following her undergraduate studies, Luisa moved to Beaune, France where she continued her education in viticulture and enology. As part of the required curriculum, Luisa apprenticed with Burgundian producer, M. Christophe Roumier of Domaine Roumier of Chambolle Musigny, as well as with Italian producer Luca Currado of Vietti in Piedmont. In 1993, Luisa was awarded the Certificate Brevet Professionnelle D'Oenologie et Viticulture, at the time the only woman to earn such distinction.

Since 1993, Luisa has been at the helm of the wine production of Ponzi Vineyards and has brought her knowledge of Burgundian practices combined with her personal experience to the family-owned winery. Along with her sister, Maria, over the last three decades she has expanded the vineyard acreage to 175 acres and the winery production to over 40,000 cases. In 2008 they built a state-of-the-art gravity flow winery and beautiful hospitality center. Luisa led the charge to create the Laurelwood District AVA which was approved in 2020.

Luisa continues to educate herself through contacts with winemakers around the world, frequent winery tastings and winemaking conferences. She currently sits on the board of the Chehalem Mountain Winegrowers Association, is the current chair of LIVE, the regions sustainable vineyard certifier and organizes and participates in tastings and seminars throughout the world. For more than three decades, Luisa's passion and winemaking talent have helped sustain Ponzi Vineyards' nearly 50-year acclaimed tradition of producing some of the world's finest wines.

## ACCOLADES

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*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*

