

JEPSON



Vineyards • Winery • Distillery

Biography for Alison Schneider - Jepson Vineyards Winemaker and Distiller

The road that leads someone to winemaking seems to have many turns and Alison Schneider's has some interesting speed bumps. Armed with a degree in journalism and public relations, Ms. Schneider worked for an advertising agency in St. Louis where her main client was Jack Daniels whiskey.

Along with a passion for travel and good food, she enjoyed working in restaurants in her college years and beyond. That interest led her to Seattle where she landed a job as a 'cellar rat' at Chateau St. Michelle Winery. Wanting to be involved with making superlative Zinfandel, a variety not grown in Washington State, Alison set off for California to gain additional winemaking skills. Where to look for that job was decided by a drive to the beautiful Northern California Coast. She knew then that this is where she wanted to make her home.

In 1993, shortly after her arrival in California she was hired by winemaker, Randy Ullom, to be the Production Coordinator at De Loach Vineyards in Sonoma County. During that time, she extended her knowledge by taking chemistry and viticulture courses. After Randy's departure and now under winemaker Dan Cederquist's skillful tutelage, Ms. Schneider was promoted to Assistant Winemaker in 1996 followed by a rapid promotion to Winemaker in 1998. Dan remarks that besides being a 'one-person human resource department for the winemaking office, she is also a gifted palate', something that is difficult to teach but necessary for producing world-class wines. The pair worked closely together to oversee the production of De Loach Vineyards 170,000 case winery including two separate crush facilities housing several thousand barrels.

The 2000 vintage brought exciting winemaking changes for Ms. Schneider as she joined the 'Jepson Family' as Head Winemaker. Her extensive experience working with both red and white varieties makes her a tremendous asset and welcome addition to Jepson Vineyards, Winery and Distillery.

Away from the winery, Alison has a passion for travel and dining. She loves good food and wine. The seasoned student, Alison is always taking classes of some kind, most recently her favorite area of study is the Italian language and Business Law. A natural athlete, she loves swimming and running.