
Best International Winemaker 2023 – USA

Nick Goldschmidt is the winemaking owner of Northern California winery, Goldschmidt Vineyards, located in Sonoma County. Its headquarters are in Healdsburg, and they own vineyards in the Alexander Valley and Napa Valley.



Goldschmidt Vineyards has a family passion for producing fine wines that has followed owners Nick Goldschmidt and his wife Yolyn from their birth country of New Zealand to Sonoma County, California, where they now live. Nick makes wine in 6 different countries and owns vineyards in 3. He also consults for wineries across the globe and has a reputation amongst his winemaking peers in Sonoma County as a local legend.

Nick has a love of learning. He has degrees in Horticulture, Viticulture and Enology. Working in the vineyards and making wine will always be his first love.

It was 1990 when he decided to settle in Healdsburg, CA, with Yolyn, and take up a position as Associate Winemaker for Simi Winery. He was a driving force behind the notorious Simi Reserve Cabernet programme whilst working for the Simi Winery. Following on from this he took up a position as Executive Vice President and Winemaker at Allied Domecq Wines USA. During company acquisitions, this also led to him becoming VP and Exec Domestic Winemaker for the Beam Estates wine portfolio.

His previous experience producing top rate wines from all over the world stood him in good stead here as he knew exactly who he wanted to work with and which vineyards he intended to bring into play when making his own wines. Nick and Yolyn established their own line of wines by focusing on two distinct fine wine brands, namely Forefathers and Goldschmidt Vineyards. Under the Forefathers brand they produced a New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc and a California Cabernet Sauvignon. Under the Goldschmidt Vineyards brand they created two Cabernet Sauvignons, one from Alexander Valley in Sonoma, and one from Oakville in Napa Valley.

Nick's passion is to make single vineyard, 100% varietal, handcrafted, small production wines. With winemaking fuelling their dreams and enriching their lives, the passion for the craft is readily apparent. Goldschmidt Vineyards is home to the entire family, with Nick and Yolyn's five grown children all pitching in to help, whether during harvest or in the cellar, making the wine. Nick explains that when the children were younger, he came up with the lovely idea of including their silhouettes on the wine labels, "and each girl would colour the label to reflect

her personality and style." He loves making a wine with each of his daughters.

Having the involvement of the entire family has made an insurmountable difference to the winemaking adventures of Goldschmidt Vineyards. Wherever their paths lead them as individuals, Nick is sure that they will always have "a little bit of the winemaking genetics" simmering under the surface. Nick is also supremely passionate about the earth and farming. His involvement with the winemaking process, from vine to glass, has spurred him on to advocate for the importance of leaving the land in a better place. This is an integral message he sees as vital for the wellbeing of future generations. He hopes that everyone will be able to enjoy the simple pleasure of enjoying a good glass of wine.

We congratulate Goldschmidt Vineyards on its award as Best International Winemaker 2023 – USA and can't wait to sample a tippie or two.

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