



**Barra Family Welcomes Michelle Winter as Head of Winemaking for Mendocino County-Based Brands and Custom Crush Facility**  
*Winter to head up all winemaking duties for Redwood Valley Cellars, BARRA of Mendocino and Girasole Vineyards wine brands*

**Redwood Valley, CA April 23, 2018-** Mendocino County grape growers and wine producers Charlie & Martha Barra, have announced the hiring of Michelle Winter to oversee all winemaking duties for their 2.8 million gallon custom crush facility, Redwood Valley Cellars, located just north of Ukiah in Redwood Valley, CA. In addition to providing winemaking services to custom crush clients, Ms. Winter will also be responsible for the family's own estate grown, CCOF (California Certified Organic Farmers) certified wine brands, *BARRA of Mendocino* and *Girasole Vineyards*.

"As the #2 ranked custom crush facility in the North Bay (North Bay Business Journal, April 2018), we have established ourselves as a well-respected partner of both grape growers and bulk wine customers alike. Providing best-of-class wine services to our clients, as well as producing award-winning wines of our own, requires an individual that has a 360-degree view of the wine-making experience" says Shawn Harmon, VP of Operations for the Barra family. "From her large-scale production work at Don Sebastiani & Sons, to her brand focused responsibilities at Sonoma-Cutrer, Michelle brings the ideal blend of talents to our multi-faceted operation."

Beginning as a Lab Director at some of Napa's most prestigious brands including Stag's Leap Cellars and Rutherford Hill Winery, Ms. Winter has spent the last 20 years leveraging her extensive technical experience to build quality winemaking programs for wineries both big and small. A self-proclaimed "cellar rat", she finds great pleasure in working alongside her lab and cellar teams to provide that extra level of hands on commitment.

"I'm thrilled to join the team at BARRA of Mendocino and Redwood Valley Cellars. The Barra family's longstanding commitment to quality, community, and stewardship of the land is a true inspiration. Being able to craft consumer-friendly wines for our brands, as well as provide quality services at a larger scale custom-crush facility, is a truly satisfying combination in terms of the 'the ideal' winemaker position. I'm eager to dig in and earn my place in this already fantastic winemaking team", says Winter.

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**GIRASOLE**  
Vineyards

**BARRA**  
of MENDOCINO

REDWOOD VALLEY  
*Cellars*