

Gabrielle Leonhard
O'Connell Family Wines

Ms. Leonhard heads up O'Connell Family Wines, producer of artisan handcrafted wines, where she focuses her efforts on strategic planning, sales and marketing, distribution, and winemaking and product development.

As vintner of The Gabrielle Collection, she produces boutique, handcrafted Cabernet Sauvignon from organic and sustainable vineyards in Napa Valley including the family estate O'Connell Family Vineyard, Oak Knoll District Napa Valley. Each wine is a distinctive blend as blending is her passion. Her wines have a loyal following of fine wine collectors worldwide.

Ms. Leonhard establishes the stylistic direction of the wines and heads winemaking and organic farming practices at the estate vineyard and gardens. She believes a complex growing environment sustains healthy organisms, maintaining a naturally robust vineyard. The result: beautiful fruit makes expressive wines. The diverse eco-system includes the olive grove, orchard, lavender field, herb & vegetable garden and ornamental estate garden. From these gardens, she developed a line of Gabrielle Estate products: Culinary, Spa, Home & Pooch- what keeps the vineyard healthy, returns to the table and home to enrich a naturally luxurious lifestyle. A complete Farm to Table philosophy.

Active in the wine industry, Ms. Leonhard's contributions include: National Board President Women for WineSense; wine judge at the Mendocino Fair Wine Competition and National Women's Wine Competition; honored as a leader in Sustainable Farming by Napa Valley Grape Growers; celebrity food and wine expert by Holland America Line; guest wine educator at the Disney Food and Wine Program.

Ms. Leonhard has another passion: Olive Oil. Activities include: Completion of UC Davis Olive Oil Taster certification curriculum; Founder California Olive Oil Culinary Guild- a training program for chefs on olive oil quality; Founder Mission Olive Preservation, Restoration and Education Program (MOPREP)- an organization to preserve the historic olive trees in California. She is currently authoring The Ultimate Guide of American Olive Oil and grows Mission olives to produce the estate extra virgin oil.

Prior experience includes an entrepreneurial background: Founder and President of Living Interiors, serving as Head of Design, and Sales and Marketing. Founder of The Corporate Incubator and The Emerging Business Institute, a not for profit entrepreneurial training institute, providing business plan and development programs targeted at company expansion and funding.

Ms. Leonhard has a BA Degree from the University of California, Berkeley and a Masters in Secondary Education. Additional studies include Napa College/UC Davis viticulture program, sensory evaluation and olive oil sensory evaluation.