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DUCKHORN®

PORTFOLIO

CHRISTOPHER DEAN

Postmark Winemaker



A self-described ski bum for several years, Christopher fell in love with wine while living in Salt Lake City, where he worked at night in fine-dining restaurants to pay for days spent on powdery slopes. “It’s funny, I grew up in Willamette Valley, which is the heart of Oregon wine country, but it wasn’t until I was living in Utah that my interest in wine really took hold. Working in restaurants, I was exposed to all of these incredible wines from all over the world. The more I learned about growing grapes and winemaking, the more I felt transported to these magical places where great wine is made.”

In 2009, Christopher hung up his skis, packed a U-Haul and headed west to California to learn about winemaking. While taking classes in viticulture and enology, Christopher began working in the vineyards of Kunde Estate, where he learned about growing grapes from the ground up. After four years of invaluable hands-on vineyard experience, he joined the cellar team at Mauritsen Wines, where he began honing his craft as a winemaker. To gain a deeper understanding of wine, he also traveled to wine regions in California, Oregon, Washington State and Bordeaux.

In 2015, after completing his degree in viticulture and enology from UC Davis, Christopher joined the winemaking team at the Duckhorn Portfolio, where he quickly established himself as a rising talent. He was rapidly promoted from production assistant to Decoy assistant winemaker to Decoy associate winemaker and ultimately production winemaker for Duckhorn’s Waterfowl Winery. “I’ve been able to work alongside and learn from the winemakers at Duckhorn Vineyards, Paraduxx, Goldeneye, Kosta Browne, Calera, and more. It’s amazing. They are some of the greatest winemakers in America. It’s been incredible. I’ve just tried to be a sponge and soak up all the knowledge I possibly can.”

In 2018, Christopher was given the opportunity to make the debut vintage of the Postmark Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon. “I love the vision behind Postmark,” he adds. “It reminds me of what inspired me to become a winemaker—the idea that even if someone has never been to Napa Valley, we can make a wine that will transport them there, that will give them a taste of a magical place, and a moment in time.”

When he is not making wine, Christopher loves to cook, ski, snowboard, free dive on the Pacific Coast, and most of all, spend time with his wife and two young kids.