

# LYNMAR ESTATE

*Russian River Valley*

## JASON SALING

### VINEYARD MANAGER

Jason Saling has spent his career getting to the root (literally) of what makes world class wines “world class.” Tutored in the vineyards of Sonoma County, Jason honed his skills alongside industry legends, eventually joining a West County vineyard management group specializing in Pinot Noir. He managed up to 1600 acres at one time, but at a certain point, realized that in winegrowing, quality is not necessarily a benefit of economy of scale.

When invited to join Lynmar Estate in 2009, Jason was intrigued by the opportunity to manage a single estate vineyard with an in-house team – an increasingly rare arrangement in modern winegrowing. “The advantage to our scenario at Lynmar and Quail Hill Vineyard,” Jason shared, “is a singular focus on quality – shared between winemaking, winegrowing and Lynn and Anisya Fritz.”

With thousands of hours of hands-on experience with the Quail Hill vines, soils and microclimates, Jason and his team understand the vineyard’s unique growing cycle and natural order at a level rarely seen. “In my time here, I’ve gone through series upon series of discoveries that can only come from walking and working the vineyards,” Jason said. “The changing soil types and where, exactly – mid-row – they change. The depths, fertility indices, water holding capacities – how they differ and how can we better manage them. All these things contribute to our ability to guide the fruit to its fullest potential each season.” Since Jason’s arrival, he has increased the number of individually farmed sub-blocks from 41 to 70, to further increase vine balance and overall vineyard uniformity.

Essentially, Jason sees no end to how many ways he and his team can divide and manage the winegrowing process, to continue to foster the highest possible quality from the land. “We’ve raised the ceiling and brought the floor right up to meet it. We don’t accept that there can be a ‘grey’ area in the middle. This fruit from these fields absolutely must be of the highest quality and we won’t settle for less. Our vineyard team understands that, Pete won’t accept anything less and Lynn and Anisya would never allow for it.”

