

DAVIS

BYNUM

Greg Morthole

Winemaker

Greg Morthole started working for the winery in 2005, when he accepted a job as lab director. His acumen for winemaking became immediately clear and he quickly ascended to associate winemaker in late 2007. In the spring of 2010, Greg was promoted to Davis Bynum Winemaker, overseeing all aspects operations and winemaking.

Mostly raised in Sacramento, California, Greg followed his heart back to the state after attending the University of Wyoming, where he earned a B.S. in natural sciences and mathematics. His degree led him to Vinquiry in Windsor as a laboratory analyst in the late 1990s followed by a position with Chalk Hill Winery as an enologist. Greg has a quiet demeanor with a determined, energetic attitude. He acknowledges that winemaking is serious, but also fun. “Making wine from Russian River Valley is living a dream, it’s one of the best growing regions in the world; it is exhilarating,” says Morthole.

Working for longtime Rodney Strong winemaker, Rick Sayre and alongside David Ramey, who consults with Rodney Strong and Davis Bynum, has provided Morthole the opportunity to learn from their vast experiences and opened Greg’s mind to exploration. He notes, “Trying winemaking techniques used in Burgundy or retrying techniques that have been forgotten is incredibly valuable.”

Greg first met Davis Bynum in the fall of 2010. Their relationship has become a real friendship with regular lunch dates where they talk about a wide range of topics. Morthole recalls as they were working together on Greg’s first trip to Manhattan, Davis shared that the streets go east-west while the avenues go north-south. “Davis is a gentleman, and we have a great relationship,” Greg comments, “and those little things along the way really stick with me.”

Philosophically, Morthole believes wine is intriguing to those who enjoy it partially because the transformation from juice to wine is mystifying. “I think that the synergistic effects of all the different things found in wine are incredible,” Greg comments. “Even though we try to wrap our arms around it, I think we never will unlock all the secrets and come to a full understanding of what is actually going on. It’s a hall of mirrors,” Morthole concludes.

Morthole and his wife Mary are the proud parents of a young son and daughter. He lives in Santa Rosa, California and enjoys playing with his children, backpacking, mountain bike riding and spending time outdoors.