

GARY FARRELL

VINEYARDS & WINERY

Brent McKoy, Winemaker



Brent McKoy's goal is to capture the fruit at the moment when it has the most to say.

That philosophy guides everything at Gary Farrell. After twenty years at the property, Brent knows the vineyards – Rochioli, Bacigalupi, Gap's Crown, Hallberg – the way you know old friends. How they behave in different years. What they're capable of when everything lines up. When to pick, when to wait, when to make the call that matters.

His approach is hands-on and deliberate. Stay present in the cellar. Pay close attention to what's actually happening – in the vineyard, during fermentation, as the wine develops. Respond to that, not to formulas or preconceived ideas. The result is wines that feel fresh and alive, with the depth and structure that make them satisfying whether you're drinking them tonight or putting them down for years.

Brent's path to winemaking wasn't direct. Growing up on the North Carolina coast, he studied English literature, played percussion in a jazz band, installed art, worked as an arborist. In Florence, Italy, he discovered wine woven into daily life. Later, working with arborists in Santa Fe, he spent evenings around the campfire drinking wine with dinner while conversations turned to the land and what it takes to work with it. That's when something clicked.

He moved to Napa Valley in 2001, worked his first harvest as an intern at Robert Mondavi, learning winemaking from the ground up. By the end of that vintage, he knew this was what he wanted to do long term.

In 2005, he joined Gary Farrell as Cellar Foreman, working directly under founder Gary Farrell. They shared the same approach: be present for all of it, stay hands-on through every stage, be equally comfortable crafting wine or driving a forklift. That lesson stuck.

Twenty years later, Brent leads the winemaking with that same outlook and energy – guiding Gary Farrell into a new chapter while staying true to what's always set the winery apart.

When he's not in the cellar, he's at home with his wife and two daughters, camping, spending time near the ocean, or drumming on his pickup's dashboard.