Little Black Dress

WiNE MAKER BiO

ZIDANELLA

Zidanelia "Z" Arcidiacono, the woman behind Little Black Dress Wines, is a female role model to be celebrated for the next generation. One of the few woman winemakers not born into the business, "Z" believes that being a female helps provide insight to making delicious wines and the brand's success. "Women in general are more sensitive, both intuitively and physically. I try to use my palate as a laboratory for what they'll enjoy."

"Z" was born in Texas, raised and educated in Argentina, interned in France, and now works in California's wine country, where she crafts eight varietals and two new blends of Little Black Dress Wines for LBD's almost exclusively female following of sippers. While wine has long been a passion for her, the opportunity to create Little Black Dress Wines is something new on her résumé: "Z" focuses on the quality of the oak used to influence and develop each wine lot, making certain there is a proper balance and complexity to the wines from the beautiful California vineyards.

Z'S PASSION & TENACIOUS DRIVE IN CREATING A SUCCESSFUL WOMAN-CENTRIC COLLECTION OF WINES DIMINISHES ANY STIGMA ABOUT WOMEN IN THE WINE AND SPIRITS BUSINESS, CELEBRATING WOMEN ROLE MODELS WORLDWIDE.

"Z" is quite possibly the only major winemaker hailing from Mendoza, Argentina whose family was not in the wine business: hers owned a restaurant where she helped out until the lure of the vineyards called. Growing up, many of her schoolmates and friends' parents owned and/or tended to vineyards and "Z" envied their visible passion despite the hard work.

"Z" matriculated at Mendoza's Universidad Juan Augustin Maza, majoring in viticulture and winemaking, earning her Bachelor's degree and certification from the Argentinean National Diploma of Oenology. The required coursework included hours of chemistry, viticulture, and of course, everything there is to learn about grapes: from identifying what makes them healthy and ripe; winemaking techniques; palate training for ripeness and aroma; how to develop a sensory memory and tagging descriptors to what you taste and smell; recognizing correct color and avoiding wine flaws. Concurrently, "Z" developed her expertise as a three-year apprentice at Bodega Cruz de Piedra, where she learned firsthand all the aspects of winemaking, cellaring and winegrowing.

After graduation, Z made her way to France to conquer the cellars at Les Vignerons du Pays d'Enserune in Languedoc Roussillon during harvest, where she greatly enjoyed performing even the most menial tasks at the winery, such as cleaning the tanks, confirming that she was on the perfect career path. She then crossed the globe, heading to California's Russian River Valley as harvest enologist for Sonoma-Cutrer, and next to Mendocino County: it was there that she eventually landed at Little Black Dress Wines. At any given time during harvest, her travels can exceed 250 miles a day when she visits the various vineyards growing the different grapes for all of the Little Black Dress Wines. But she wouldn't have it any other way.

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