



CHAPPELLET

Andrew Opatz
Director of Vineyard Operations

Andrew Opatz may have been destined to grow winegrapes on Pritchard Hill. Andrew's grandfather owned vineyards in both Napa Valley and Dry Creek Valley, and as the nephew of our long-time vineyard manager, Dave Pirio (who retired in 2023), Andrew often visited his uncle at Chappellet as a child. Today, after 15 years honing his craft on Pritchard Hill, Andrew is continuing his family's legacy of winegrowing excellence as Chappellet's director of vineyard operations. Working alongside Vice President of Winemaking Phillip Corallo-Titus, Andrew oversees our full-time, in-house vineyard crew, guides all day-to-day farming operations, manages our organic certification program, and works closely with our grower partners to help cultivate some of the world's finest winegrapes.

Born and raised in the Bay Area, Andrew grew up visiting his grandfather's vineyard, where he learned to appreciate the cycles of the seasons and the dedication required to grow grapes. Though Andrew earned a degree in kinesiology from Sonoma State University, internships at Chappellet and GeoVit Vineyard Services during college kindled Andrew's love of farming and inspired him to take numerous classes in viticulture. After graduation, Andrew joined Chappellet full-time in 2008, and has been an integral part of our team ever since.

"I was mentored for many years by Dave, and his knowledge has been priceless," says Andrew. "He taught me that it isn't about reaching that high bar—our job is to constantly raise the bar even higher. I grew up playing baseball, and I view every vintage as the start of a new season. My job is to grow, adapt, learn new techniques and try new things so that I can be the director of vineyard operations that I can be, and so that Chappellet can continue to build on our legacy of cultivating some of the most extraordinary grapes in the world."

Andrew lives in Rutherford, with his wife, Jenni, who also works on the vineyard side of the wine industry. In addition to his role at Chappellet, Andrew is a member of the Napa Valley Vineyard Technical Group and helps to represent Chappellet as a member of the Napa Valley Vintners.