



Zelma Long
Consulting Winemaker, Buty Winery

Since 2001, legendary consulting winemaker Zelma Long has been deeply involved with Buty, contributing her vision and vast experience to almost every aspect of the winery. An icon, trailblazer and one of the industry's most celebrated winemakers, Zelma is an integral part of the Buty team, working closely with Nina Buty, and winemaker Chris Dowsett. Her four decades of knowledge and hands-on know-how have helped to shape Buty's approach to grape sourcing, the development of Buty's own Rockgarden Estate and its prized section of Phinny Hill, and the vineyard-inspired expression of winemaking that has come to define the winery.

After studying in the UC Davis enology and viticulture master's program in the late 1960s, Zelma joined Robert Mondavi Winery in 1970, and was rapidly promoted to chief enologist. In 1979, she became the winemaker and vice president of Simi Winery, ultimately becoming Simi's president and CEO, and later executive vice president of Moët Hennessy, which included both Simi and Domaine Chandon. Since retiring from Moët Hennessy in 1999, Zelma has established herself as one of the world's most respected consulting winemakers, championing wineries in South Africa, Israel and France. Zelma's experience has also had a profound influence on Washington State, through her work with Abeja, Bookwalter, and for over a decade, Buty.

At the heart of Zelma's winemaking philosophy is a belief in respecting a wine's origins in the vineyard by using the most natural winemaking approach possible. "My foremost goal is to work with clients both on winegrowing and winemaking, focusing on those with their own estates, or strong control of their grape sources. I work with those striving to be the best."

Zelma has been honored with the James Beard Wine & Spirits Professional of the Year award, and is a member of the James Beard Hall of Fame. In 2009, she received the University of California, Davis, Outstanding Achievement Award, the American Society of Enology & Viticulture Annual Merit Award, and the American Wine Society Merit Award. In 2010, she was inducted into the Culinary Institute of America Vintner Hall of Fame, and in 2010 and 2011, she received back-to-back Winemaker of the Year nominations from *Wine Enthusiast*.

Zelma also has her own winery, along with her husband, viticulturist Phil Freese, in the Cape of South Africa, where their wines grow solely from their Vilafonté Vineyard of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot and Malbec.