



HAHN FAMILY

— WINES —

PAUL CLIFTON, GENERAL MANAGER, DIRECTOR OF WINEMAKING

Paul, who grew up in Salinas, California, equally loves surf and snow. So after graduating from Colorado State University with a degree in business, he split his time between surfing in Santa Cruz and skiing in Tahoe. Eventually, his interests turned to winemaking. He first worked in the cellar at Bernardus Winery in Carmel Valley and moved on to Byington Winery in the Santa Cruz Mountains where he was the assistant winemaker.

The call of the slopes and the sea continued, however. So when he heard that in New Zealand he could ski and surf in the same day, he moved there. It wasn't all about recreation. Paul earned a post-graduate degree from New Zealand's Lincoln University, with studies focusing primarily on viticulture. "The main draw of New Zealand was learning about cool-climate viticulture," Paul says. "Everything had to unfold very precisely in the vineyard. I learned that as a winemaker, you have to concentrate your efforts there."

In 2003, Paul returned to the United States when he was offered the job of cellar master at Hahn. When a winemaking post later became open, he took it and now is director of winemaking for all of the company's wines.

"I love working with Pinot Noir and Chardonnay," Paul says. "Both are cool-climate varieties and relatively temperamental. In particular, once you pick Pinot Noir, it's going to be what it's going to be. So it's about what's happening in the vineyards, how the fruit is brought in and how it's first processed once it arrives at the winery."