

# HESTER CREEK



## Biography



### General Manager – Mark Sheridan

Born and raised in the Barossa Valley in Australia, wine has always been in Mark Sheridan's blood. With a father as a wine sales manager, Sheridan always knew he would be involved in the wine business. Growing up in Australia, he spent lots of time around wineries and in vineyards. After earning a Bachelor of Agriculture Science at Adelaide University, Sheridan went on to work for some of Australia's largest wine producers, Cellarmaster Wines and Orlando Wyndham. Moving to Canada in 1999, Sheridan worked as the director of vineyard operations for Canada's largest wine company Vincor Canada and was called "a rising star in a young industry". He was attracted to BC, as he saw the Okanagan as the world's next wine frontier. Under his careful guidance, the grapes he grew went into the BC wines that garnered top international awards including world's best Shiraz at the International Wine and Spirits Competition in London, England.

After managing an effective and award-winning vineyard operations team, Sheridan was excited about the new challenge of taking on a broader management role. Now with Hester Creek Estate Winery, Sheridan is general manager, and oversees all aspects of the winery's business, from viticulture through to the finished wines and then into the marketplace.

Sheridan is excited about his work with the team at Hester Creek to further highlight his management capabilities. "For the past ten years, I have been getting to know this unique valley," says Sheridan. "We have an incredibly special site here at Hester Creek. I am pleased to be here," he continues, "not only for the vineyard, but also for this gorgeous facility that offers one of the best experiences for visitors to the Okanagan."

In his spare time, Sheridan loves spending time in the outdoors – from camping, to hiking, to hunting and fishing. He also likes golf and pulling old gems out of his wine cellar to share with his wife Allison.

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## MARK SHERIDAN Q & A:

*Q. When did you know you wanted to get into the wine industry?*

A. Wine has always been a part of my life. Even from a young age, wine was a part of my upbringing, as my father John was a wine sales manager in Australia. My family is from the Barossa, and as a child I spent time in and around vineyards and wineries.

*Q. What are your thoughts on working in the office versus being in the vineyard as often?*

A. While I do love the vineyard, I am really enjoying the set of challenges and new scope that this role has given me. It's exciting to take on something different, and I can always visit the vines!

*Q. Describe your perfect wine moment:*

A. My perfect wine moment would be sitting down in front a roaring fire on a winter night with a really great glass of wine, and reflecting on what it took to make that wine. By looking back on the challenges we went through growing and winemaking that year, that glass showcases not only the hard work, but also the amazing reward, and that makes what we do worthwhile.

*Q. Can you compare Hester Creek to anywhere else in the world?*

A. The Okanagan Valley has a feeling all unto itself; with its gorgeous views and beautiful location, it's unique worldwide. While there are many wine regions around the world, we are really special and can stand tall against international regions.

*Q. What is your favourite food and wine pairing?*

A. My favourite is an easy choice: rack of lamb with our reserve Cabernet Franc. So delicious!

*Q. The Okanagan is so far from your birthplace in Australia. What keeps you here?*

A. I'm so intrigued by the fact that our industry is still writing the book on what we can do with wine in the Okanagan Valley. If we're halfway into discovering what we're capable of, that's as far as we've come. The opportunity to be involved in an emerging wine area, combined with the fact that it is a beautiful place to live as well is an outstanding draw. Add to that the great team at Hester Creek (and within this entire industry) and I couldn't possibly leave!

*Q. The future for the South Okanagan, Oliver, Golden Mile: what are your hopes?*

A. I hope that we can continue to focus on making quality wines and raising the bar as an industry. If we build on the great ground work done to date, we can continue to be recognized on the world stage.

*Q. What is your favourite part about working at Hester Creek?*

A. I love what we've created here. We not only have a very unique site that produces wines truly reflective of our specific terroir, but also have a state-of-the-art winery and a seasoned winemaker. The team here is very dedicated, and our owners are focused on uncompromising quality. By giving us the direction and resources we need, we're able to achieve our goals.