



ROUND POND ESTATE OWNERS

Brother & Sister Team - Miles and Ryan MacDonnell



Brother-sister team Miles MacDonnell and Ryan MacDonnell Bracher serve as owners of Round Pond Estate—a winery, vineyard and olive mill located on Rutherford land their family has owned since 1983.

After years of providing grapes for some of the region’s finest wine producers, the MacDonnell family began making their own wine under the Round Pond label with the inaugural 2002 vintage. Miles and Ryan assumed control of the business in 2003, and today Round Pond Estate produces highly acclaimed Cabernet Sauvignon and Sauvignon Blanc from the family’s 362 acre vineyard. They also craft specialty gourmet foods, including fine red wine vinegars, and extra virgin olive oil in their estate olive mill.

“We are farmers first. We have been working this land for almost 40 years and originally began making our own wine in order to become better farmers,” Miles says. “We’ve always been passionate about winegrowing, and we wanted to understand fully the intimate connection between what happens in each vineyard micro-block and what happens in the cellar. After our first vintage, we became excited about the winemaking side of things and what we could accomplish with fruit from our family estate.”

M I L E S M A C D O N N E L L

Miles assumed leadership of Round Pond Estate after working in auditing with Deloitte. Originally a graduate of Southern Methodist University in psychology and economics, he returned to school in 2005, maintaining his responsibilities at the winery while pursuing his MBA at Boston College. His current role at Round Pond Estate includes heading up viticulture, production, and wholesale sales and he shares finance duties with Ryan.

“Ryan and I are incredibly lucky to live and work with our family on family land,” says Miles. “Basically, we grew up camping out in these vineyards, exploring the river, and riding four-wheelers up and down the valley. As a family, we enjoyed the farm-to-table lifestyle before it was fashionable. The philosophy is a perfect fit for our company, with its estate winery and olive mill.”

R Y A N M A C D O N N E L L B R A C H E R

Ryan MacDonnell Bracher manages marketing, direct-to-consumer sales, the hospitality program, as well as the production of estate’s olive oils and other specialty gourmet foods. She shares finance duties with Miles. From 2005 to 2007, while Miles pursued his business degree, Ryan oversaw the new winery construction to completion.

“As a family we have always enjoyed the rustic elegance of wine and homegrown food around the table,” says Ryan. “It’s a privilege, now, to be able to share the bounty of our estate with others.”

Ryan spent ten years working and studying outside the winery at Goldman Sachs and the Hewlett Foundation before joining her family at Round Pond Estate in 2003. Her educational background includes a JD from Stanford Law School and an undergraduate degree in Political Economy from UC Berkeley. She lives in a home on the Rutherford estate with her husband, Charles Bracher, and their children Ava, Adeline and Genevieve.

“Napa Valley has always felt like home,” Ryan says. “As children we spent summers and holidays here, roaming the vineyards. It’s a pleasure to watch my own children and their cousins grow up in this special place together.”