

Winemaker Interview Series: Alpha Omega — Melissa Paris — December 2024

January 23, 2025

On Wednesday, December 11, 2024, Ken's Wine Guide had a chance to interview and get to know Melissa Paris, the new head winemaker for Alpha Omega Winery. The tasting covered eight of her new 2022 vintage wines — all Cabernet Sauvignon offerings except for a red blend from Spring Mountain.

About Melissa Paris

Matt Brain was her first enology professor at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Melissa's early experience included working with winemaking teams in Australia, New Zealand, and California. She joined Alpha Omega in September of 2020 as an assistant winemaker and had a brief crossover with Jean Hoefliger in 2020.

Melissa quickly rose through the ranks to Associate Winemaker in early 2023, and was promoted to head Winemaker in July 2024. She is continuing her education and currently pursuing a Global Wine Executive MBA degree from Sonoma State.

2022 Vintage Notes

The 2022 vintage was a drought year with a heat event in September. Whites came in during August in excellent condition. Alpha Omega made wine from 14 of the 16 AVAs in Napa Valley in 2022. The 2022 ERA wine is made from grapes from Cordes, Stricker, Sleeping Lady, and Circle K.

Wines Reviewed

Alpha Omega 2022 Proprietary Red, Spring Mountain; Alpha Omega 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon, Howell Mountain; Alpha Omega 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon, Angel's Vista Vineyard (Napa Valley); Alpha Omega 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon, Sleeping Lady Vineyard (Yountville); Alpha Omega 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon, Houyi Vineyard (Napa Valley); Alpha Omega 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon, Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard (Oakville) — KWGTP 97 points; Alpha Omega 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon, Atlas Peak; Alpha Omega 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon, ERA (Napa Valley) — KWGTP 98 points.

Ken's Wine Guide Tasting Panel scores ranged from 93.5 to 98 points across the lineup, with the 2022 ERA receiving the highest score of 98 points.

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