



Margaret Davenport held her first winery job in 1980 and worked her 33rd harvest in 2012.

Loving wine, wanting to live in the countryside, and possessing a college degree in biochemistry made Margaret a good candidate for her first winery job, a laboratory position at Simi Winery in Healdsburg. Routine laboratory work was not her true interest, but positions in the laboratory or the tasting room were the only choices for women in 1980. It was extremely unusual at the time that Simi's winemaker, and later winery president, was a woman, Zelma Long. Margaret's brief two-month experience during the 1980 harvest encouraged her to study the science of winemaking. A year later, she enrolled as an enology graduate student at the University of California, Davis, and was awarded a Master of Science degree in 1985.

After holding a position as a maker of sparkling wines at Wente Brothers (now, Wente Vineyards) in the Livermore Valley, she returned to western Sonoma County in 1987 to assume winemaking duties at Clos du Bois. There she focused on crafting small lots of single vineyard wines from the Alexander Valley.

In 2003 she took her career in a new direction by starting her own business, Davenport and Company, making Russian River Pinot Noir, and Zinfandel from her Rockpile vineyard, while also providing consulting services for winemakers and winery owners. In 2004 she became consulting winemaker for Passalacqua Winery and later, Merriam Vineyards, where she served as its first winemaker.

In 2012 Margaret was named winemaker for Windsor Oaks Vineyards and Winery.