



Women In Booze

We tapped 17 of the top ladies in liquor and wine for their favorite sips, drink-making tips and what it's really like to be a female in the industry.

By **Lauren Sheffield**

From one of the most notable winemakers in Napa Valley to the first-ever female master whiskey distiller in Kentucky, these are women who know a thing or two about liquor. So of course, we asked them to let us in on all of their secrets—like their go-to bottle of wine and their favorite food and drink pairing. Men may still make up the majority of the industry, but these 17 leading ladies are at the forefront of an industry shake up, stirring far more than a few well-crafted cocktails.

13. Robin Lail, founder of Lail Vineyards

What are the differences between being a woman in the alcohol industry vs. being a man?

I have great admiration for both Merry Edwards and Zelma Long who pioneered the role of female winemakers in such stunning and successful ways. They emerged in the 1970s and represented a breakaway from women's roles solely as bookkeepers, secretaries, tour guides and publicists. Today women can be found in roles throughout management and production in the wine industry in California. It will come as no surprise that there are still more men than women in the wine business, but perhaps a woman's advantage arises from her distinctive, fresh approach to leadership, creativity, production and problem solving.

Favorite food/drink pairing?

Lail Vineyards Georgia Sauvignon Blanc and Kumamoto oysters from **Tomales Bay**.

Favorite unexpected food/drink pairing?

Pinot Noir and truffle popcorn or champagne and potato chips with sour cream and caviar.

Favorite bottle of wine?

1933 Inglenook Cabernet Sauvignon.

Go-to cocktail?

Tequila Reposado on the rocks with three limes and salt on the rim of the glass

Restaurant you think has the best wine/cocktail list?

The French Laundry and **Meadowood.**

