

The New Generation of Napa Valley Vintners

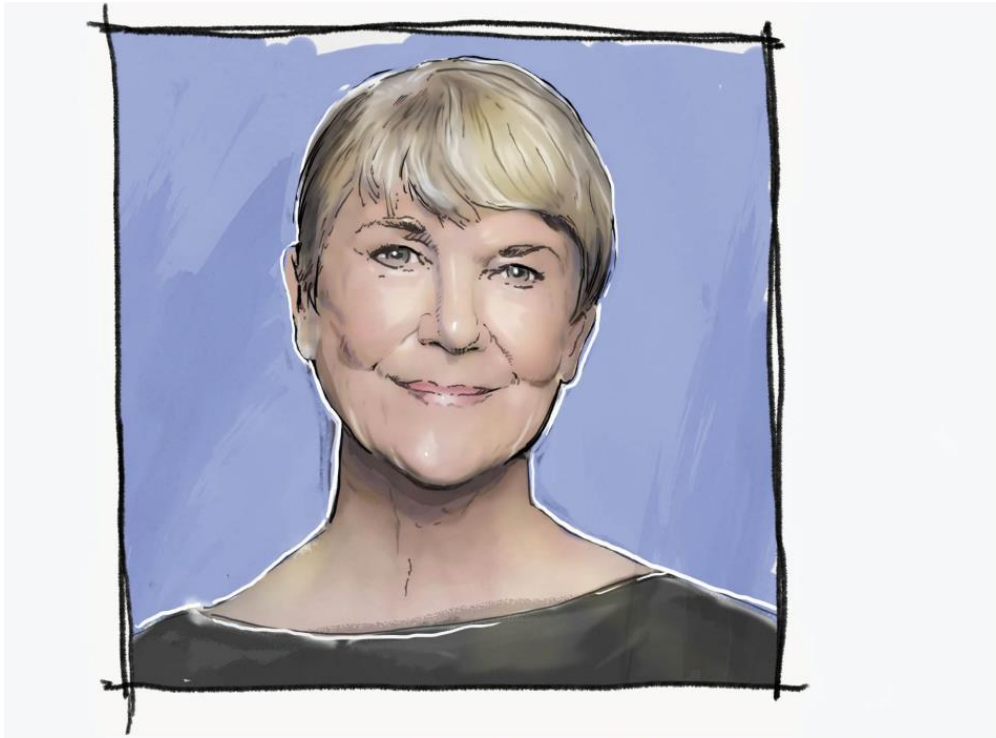
BY VIRGINIE BOONE



Illustration by Brian Clark

In 1944, a pioneering group of winemakers sat around a dinner table and came up with a visionary idea to band together. That's how **Napa Valley Vintners** was born. In the years since, it's grown from seven founders to 550 members. In that time, the organization has also created **Auction Napa Valley**, which has raised \$185 million for health and children's education across the region. Here, multiple generations consider the group's impact.





Robin Daniel Lail of Lail Vineyards / Illustration by Brian Clark

“My father, John Daniel Jr., would tell my sister and me many tales about the magnificent **Inglenook**, which had begun three generations earlier with [my great-granduncle] Captain Gustave Niebaum in 1879. Niebaum was followed by my grandfather, John Daniel Sr., and then dad. Papa used to say, ‘I see myself as a caretaker of the tradition. All this will be yours one day.’ Events followed which made it impossible for us girls to take over. First, the winery was sold in 1964, and then the ranch in 1973. I was inconsolable. I simply could not leave the tradition, the stories, the magnificent contributions of my forebears lying in the dustbin of history. So, in 1995, my family and I started **Lail Vineyards** on a shoestring and named our first Cabernet Sauvignon ‘J. Daniel Cuvée.’ Today, five generations carry forward the 140-year family quest for perfection in **Napa Valley** winemaking.” — *Robin Daniel Lail, Lail Vineyards, fourth generation*