



# Celebrating Mother-Daughter Wine Teams

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It's that time of year when we celebrate mom. Whether my actual mother or other mother-figures, there are so many wonderful women in my life that I admire and love to celebrate. I hope that I provide the same inspiration for my children and others that I "mother." Ahem...the correct answer for Thing 1 and Thing 2 is... At any rate, given that so much of my interest in wine comes from the stories behind the wine, I was thrilled to find some mother-daughter duos doing their thing in wine. Even better that they are crafting delicious, swoon-worthy wines. Here are a couple of mother-daughter wine teams that are worth checking out.

## Lail Vineyards

I still remember the **first time that I tried** Lail Vineyards' Blueprint Sauvignon Blanc. The experience stood out for a couple of reasons. First, I don't always love Sauvignon Blanc and I really enjoyed this one. The second reason the Lail Blueprint SB stood out was when I read more about the woman behind the wine. There was some serious wine royalty in that bottle. Owner Robin Daniel Lail can trace her heritage back to 1879 when her great-grand uncle founded Inglenook Vineyards. The family winemaking heritage was carried forward many years later by Robin's father John Daniel, Jr. and then on to Robin. She inherited her father's passion for wine and has had a hand in some of the most prestigious brands in California. She worked as the personal assistant to Robert Mondavi, co-founded Dominus Estate with Christian Moueix, and co-founded Merryvale Vineyards with Bill Harlan, where she served as president for a decade. Then she turned to her own venture, **Lail Vineyards**, which she founded with her two daughters Erin and Shannon, in 1995.



*Shannon, Robin and Erin Lail*

Today, the three work alongside winemakers Philippe Melka and Maayan Koschitzky to craft critically-acclaimed wines year after year. These efforts have resulted in several 100-point wines. Daughter Erin helped set up the company's infrastructure while Shannon is responsible for Lail's social media as well as makes key decisions on a daily basis. Of course, Robin is the company's heart and soul of the company and is quite committed to the fight against climate change. She is the U.S. Ambassador for Porto Protocol, which is an international foundation that fosters climate solutions for the wine industry. In fact, 10% of Lail's online sales is donated to organizations that work against against climate change.

**Wine to Try:** 2020 Lail Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc. As I mentioned, I sometime struggle with Sauvignon Blanc. Well, I should say that I prefer mine with slate/stone or tropical and stone fruit, which makes me really selective whenever I have any. Too green and grassy, and I'm not a big fan. Too much oak influence and not enough acidity and again, you miss me. So many times I've ended up disappointed by SB. It was all of my SB "baggage" that made my enjoyment of this one all the more surprising. There was richness, but not overbearingly so, accompanied by a floral freshness, stone fruit, apple, orange and enough acidity to please this acid head. I loved it even more on day 2.



*2020 Lail Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc*

