



CLAIRE JARREAU

Head Winemaker

 BrooksWinery



"I love the rhythm of the seasons. Every part of the year brings something new—from blending in the winter to the energy of harvest. There's nothing like harvest—it's game day, every day."

Claire Jarreau is the Head Winemaker at Brooks Wine, where she brings curiosity, integrity, and a science-driven approach to every vintage. Born in Mississippi and raised in the South, Claire was surrounded by conversations about food, and community, early influences that shaped her path. After earning a Chemistry degree from Appalachian State University, where she became the first graduate of the fermentation science program, she moved to Oregon in 2010 to pursue winemaking full time.

Claire has worked harvests around the world—from Riesling-focused producers in Austria to cool-climate vineyards in New Zealand and independent winemakers in South Africa. At Brooks, she first took on grower relations, building trust with farmers and managing vineyard sourcing. Today, she leads the winemaking team with a deep respect for site expression, collaboration, and the evolving nature of the work.



Little-known fact about me:

I'm social, but deeply value solitude. I take a solo backpacking trip every year.



Favorite hobby:

Exploring the outdoors—whether it's climbing mountains like Hood, Adams, and the Sisters, or heading out on wilderness pack rafting and white-water expeditions. I'm currently training for a multi-sport expedition in Alaska, and I love the challenge and perspective that time in nature brings.



What you love most about your job:

The connection to place and people. Working with growers, our team, and interns from around the world keeps me constantly learning and inspired.



Favorite food and wine pairing on the Brooks menu:

Steelhead and Riesling. A classic pairing that feels close to home—bright, wild, and beautifully Oregon.