

Founder Biography Sheet



Noah Dorrance, Co-Founder & Winemaker

Noah's passion for wine began as a freshman at the University of Missouri where he would regularly host wine tastings in his dorm room. He soon got a job at a local wine bar where he shared his favorite finds with customers, as both a buyer and a bartender. After college, Noah worked with Hotels.com which fortuitously sent him to Paris for two years. While there he explored French, Italian and Spanish wine regions on the weekends and continued to delve deeper into the world of wine. In 2006 he went to work for San Francisco-based Crushpad, where he assisted customers in both making wine and marketing. While there Noah made his first barrels of wine (including the initial version of Banshee) that he shared with family and friends, including Banshee co-founders Baron and Steve. In 2009, the downed economy gave Noah and his friends the opportunity to affordably purchase grapes from a number of high-end vineyards and Banshee Wines was officially born. Noah is now head winemaker at Banshee Wines.

Baron Ziegler, Co-Founder & Director of Sales

A native of Minnesota, Baron began buying Bordeaux futures at the age of 15, the sale of which later funded the down payment for a Boston condo while in college at Boston University. At 18 he was hired by Food & Wine Magazine's 2012 "Top Sommelier" Peter Eastlake, to work in his wine retail shop where he worked "under the radar" for three years. By 21 he was managing three stores and purchasing wines by the container. Baron then deferred medical school to work for a James Beard award-winning wine importer, Eric Solomon. After managing most of the East Coast for five years, he took over the role of national sales director, where he ran all aspects of sales for the next five years. Baron moved to California in 2007 and two years later Banshee Wines became a reality. Today Baron manages the company's sales while overseeing all aspects of Banshee's evolution and direction.

Steve Graf, Co-Founder & Director of West Coast Sales

While at the University of Pennsylvania, Steve studied abroad in Italy and fell in love with the European way of life. After college, he moved to Manhattan where he worked for the renowned wine and spirits shop, Sherry-Lehmann. He spent his free time reading a wine atlas and learning everything he could about wine. He left New York to follow his dream of living in California and was hired by E.&J. Gallo Winery as a San Francisco sales representative. Steve left Gallo to help run Vintage Berkeley, a boutique wine shop in the East Bay. At Vintage Berkeley he tasted wines from around the world, developed his palate and started appreciating the subtleties of the wine business. Seeking to learn more, Steve left to work for South African importer, Cape Classics, where he was first exposed to the supplier side. His weakness for European wines eventually led him to an opportunity to work for French wine importer and pioneer, Martine Saunier at Martine's Wines. There, he served as the East Bay sales representative and later as Martine's brand manager. At Steve's college graduation in Philadelphia, he met Baron, who eventually married Steve's sister. Steve was then introduced to Noah in San Francisco and the rest is Banshee history. Steve now leads the company's California and West Coast sales operations.

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