

# retour

## BIOGRAPHY

LINDSAY R. WOODARD | PROPRIETOR



Lindsay Woodard, a sixth generation Oregonian was born and raised in McMinnville (the epicenter of Oregon's wine country). Her family was one of the original pioneers to the state and served on the first territorial legislature that signed Oregon as part of the Union. She graduated from Linfield College, with a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communications and Public Speaking. While at Linfield, she launched an internship program between the college and the International Pinot Noir Celebration (IPNC), an event hailed by the Wine Advocate as "...unquestionably, the finest in the world". Working side by side with the Executive and Culinary Directors, she quickly became fascinated about anything and everything related to Pinot Noir.

Upon graduation, Woodard joined Ponzi Vineyards, where she played an important role as the Marketing and Public Relations Manager. She gained a wealth of experience working with the highly respected Ponzi Family. Five years later, she moved to the Napa Valley to work for the world's leading wine glass producer, Riedel Crystal of Austria, in an effort to broaden her sales expertise within the wine industry. As the Director of Winery Sales, Woodard worked closely with Georg and Maximilian Riedel, in addition to winemakers and proprietors throughout the United States.

Coming from a long line of serial entrepreneurs, combined with her experience and passion for wine, she was prompted to take the leap and become a "trep" (*known as a young lifestyle entrepreneur*). Lindsay Woodard Communications (LWC) was founded in 2004, as a brand development, marketing and design firm. To date, she has acquired an impressive client roster, working with more than 65 renowned wineries, acclaimed restaurants and organizations around the world.

Woodard was driven by a passion to return to her roots and set out to craft a complex and nuanced Pinot Noir that shares the purest expression of her native soil. In 2005, with no fear of taking a risk, she continued her entrepreneurial spirit and founded Retour Wine Company. She produces an exceptional old-vine Pinot Noir from highly acclaimed vineyards in the Willamette Valley. This young producer has made a serious impression among sommeliers, collectors and media throughout the nation. The media has placed Retour among the best with copious accolades such as: "One of the most important labels in Oregon... a Star Producer (Food & Wine), Editors' Choice and an Exciting Newcomer (Wine Enthusiast)". Harvey Steiman, Editor-In-Chief of Wine Spectator declared Retour as "The Cutting Edge: One of The Top Emerging Producers" and claims the results are "impressive". In 2010, Woodard had the honor of receiving the prestigious "Rising Star Award" from Margrit Mondavi at the Women for WineSense national organization's 20th Anniversary Gala, (held at the Culinary Institute of America - Greystone in St. Helena).

While she leads the winery operations on a daily basis, Woodard enjoys nurturing the vines and is known for her hands on labor (including plucking any unwanted berries from clusters -- with tweasers!). All viticultural and winemaking practices are under her insightful vision. She has a strong commitment to push the edge, allowing Retour to constantly improve its quality to achieve the highest echelon.

Aside from her two companies, Woodard is an avid philanthropist, raising funds for charitable organizations. She just launched her third venture First Growth Wine Consulting that offers fine and rare wine collection advisory, appraisal and valuation for the private collector. As for her fourth venture, *that has yet to be determined...*

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