

Wonderful Wine With a Woman's Perspective

November 6, 2009 by Frank Thorsberg

I discovered [Jocelyn Lonen](#) wines almost by accident, but it's the kind of accident I'd like to repeat over and over again because the wines are so good and reasonably priced.

The winery is an all-women affair. Brandi Jocelyn Pack manages the winery with a lot of help from winemaker Alison Green Duran, who also makes wine for the [Hill Family Estate](#). Brandi's mom, Susan Curtis, is a partner and Angela Herrera Lockhart is the national sales manager.

I was introduced to the winery at a tasting earlier this week at the [Alameda Wine Co.](#), where I found Angela pouring two reds and a white.

Brandi stepped into a leadership role after the death of her father, winery founder Lonen Curtis, who succumbed to brain cancer in 2004.



"This was our dream... but I had no idea what I was doing," Brandi said. "But, it's really been an interesting process. I threw myself into it and tried to learn everything I could."

The winery produced a terrific 2006 cabernet sauvignon, (\$35) with a large portion of the grapes coming from the prestigious [Stagecoach vineyard](#) on Atlas Peak.

Here's how Brandi describes it:

"I like upfront fruit, strawberry/cherry fruit," she said. "I like the big California cabernets, with their big-bodied style. My parents tried to get me into French wines, but it's so foreign to my palate. I just love that big, lush California cabernet and that's what we are going for."

The 2007 Jocelyn Lonen chardonnay (\$26) is another winner. I enjoyed this wine for its butterscotch undertone and tropical fruit flavors plus a long, creamy finish. The reserve cabernet franc (\$60) is delicious, but less than 100 cases were made and you'll have to join the Jocelyn Lonen wine club to get a bottle.

The wines are made at a custom crush facility. While there is no physical winery to visit, there are plans for a Napa tasting room to open next spring.