

CLIFF LEDE

VINEYARDS

Eric Gallegos **Director of Vineyard Operations**

As Director of Vineyard Operations, Eric Gallegos is responsible for overseeing all farming and viticulture of the winery's estate vineyards across the Stags Leap District, Carneros, and Calistoga AVAs. Eric works closely with the internal winemaking team to develop and implement vineyard farming protocols, while also managing Cliff Lede Vineyards' external grower relations.

A third-generation farmer in Napa Valley, Eric was introduced to grape growing at a young age. His grandfather emigrated from El Llano, Michoacan, in the 1940s, and later became one of the first post-prohibition winery employees at Beringer. Eric grew up working with his father in vineyard management and became the first in his family to earn a degree in viticulture upon graduating from California State University-Fresno in 2009. To build on his education, he returned home to work harvest before taking on a crucial role at his father's new vineyard management company. Eric developed vineyards for several wineries alongside viticulturist Nathan Baty who later hired him to work with some of Napa's most acclaimed winemakers, including Thomas Rivers Brown and Philippe Melka.

In 2017, Eric joined Pahlmeyer winery as Vineyard and Grower Relations Manager where he developed his interest and expertise in site-specific grape growing. With a commitment to farming organically and a philosophy of expressing terroir, Eric was drawn to the ethos of Cliff Lede Vineyards and was named Director of Vineyard Operations in 2024.

When he is not in the vineyard, Eric spends most of his time with his family. He has 31 first cousins in Napa Valley, many of which work in wine and viticulture. He loves trying new restaurants and wines, camping with his wife and kids, and cheering on his favorite teams, the Las Vegas Raiders and the Oakland A's.