

SEVEN FALLS CELLARS

REID KLEI

ASSISTANT WINEMAKER

Reid Klei is the assistant winemaker for Seven Falls Cellars which is part of the Ste. Michelle Wine Estates portfolio. These wines are inspired by and sourced from the Wahluke Slope appellation in Washington state. Klei works closely with pedigreed winemaker Doug Gore to craft the Seven Falls Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Merlot, Rapids Red and GPS Series.

Klei's scientific background and endless curiosity led him to his career in the wine industry. In 2005, he graduated from Eastern Washington University with a degree in Biology. Looking to use his degree in a laboratory, Klei completed an internship in the lab at Snoqualmie winery during the 2005 harvest.

He then worked in a few other laboratories, but when a full time lab position opened at Ste. Michelle Wine Estates, Klei jumped at the opportunity to return to the wine industry. As his time there progressed, Klei found he was interested in more than just the laboratory side of winemaking.

"Something kept drawing me to the cellar," recalls Klei. "I was fascinated by the whole process and just had to learn more."

With the support of the winemaking team at Ste. Michelle Wine Estates, Klei continued to explore the winemaking side. It was during this time that he found his true passion.

In 2008, Klei was named Enologist for Columbia Crest, and in 2012 he was promoted to assistant winemaker. "I absolutely love all aspects of my job," he says. "I am fortunate that I get to work with one of the most pedigreed winemakers in the industry. Doug has taught me so much and I continue to learn new things about wine every day."

