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Pope Valley Winery appoints April Dastic as hospitality manager to strengthen guest experience and honor historic legacy

Dastic’s background in hospitality and deep roots in grape growing support the winery’s mission to offer authentic Napa Valley visits

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Pope Valley Winery, one of Napa Valley’s oldest family-owned wineries, has announced the hiring of April Dastic as its new Hospitality Manager. The winery, established in 1897 and located on the north face of Howell Mountain, is recognized for its historic hand-dug cave and three-story gravity-flow winery. Since 2017, siblings David Eakle and Diana Eakle-Hawkins have led the winery, continuing a family legacy that spans four generations.

April Dastic brings a wealth of experience in hospitality and retail management to her new role. Her background includes positions with Silver Oak I Twomey, Sur La Table, and Pier 1 Imports. Raised in Healdsburg on six acres along the Russian River, Dastic’s

early exposure to grape growing came from her grandfather, who farmed Grenache grapes. She credits this upbringing for her appreciation of the land and winemaking traditions.

The decision to appoint Dastic comes as Pope Valley Winery pursues an ambitious agenda to restore and enhance its historic significance within Napa Valley. Michael Coode, Head Winemaker and General Manager at Pope Valley Winery, said that Dastic's dedication to creating personalized experiences for guests made her a clear choice for the position. Coode emphasized that her approach aligns with the winery's goal of offering unique and memorable visits.

David Eakle, co-owner of the winery, described Dastic's appointment as an important step in advancing both the farming and winemaking history of Pope Valley Winery. Diana Eakle-Hawkins highlighted Dastic's ability to connect with customers and build lasting relationships within the hospitality industry as key strengths she brings to the team.

Dastic expressed enthusiasm about joining a family-run operation deeply rooted in grape growing and winemaking. She noted that visiting the property and meeting the Eakle family reminded her of her own roots in Sonoma County. For Dastic, joining Pope Valley Winery represents a return to the agricultural lifestyle she grew up with.

Pope Valley remains one of Napa Valley's fastest-growing wine regions but is still relatively undiscovered by many consumers. The winery's leadership sees this as an opportunity to offer visitors an authentic experience tied closely to Napa's winemaking heritage. With Dastic now managing hospitality operations, Pope Valley Winery aims to further develop its reputation as a destination for wine enthusiasts seeking both history and quality in their tasting experiences.