

# Forbes

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## Women Making Changes In Their Family Wine Estates In Alsace, France

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Mélanie Pfister

DOMAINE MÉLANIE PFISTER

An orange wine is made by Mélanie Pfister at her family's newly renamed estate called [Domaine Mélanie Pfister](#) in Dahlenheim, Alsace and her orange wine is a Pinot Gris that receives two weeks of skin contact that is called 'Macération' and it had its first vintage in 2018. But that is not the only change that Mélanie has made as she has had the great fortune to be able to do internships at some of the top wine estates in the world such as Méo-Camuzet in Burgundy, Cheval Blanc in

Bordeaux and Zind-Humbrecht in Alsace just to name a few. Some of her takeaways from these internships include learning biodynamic practices from Zind-Humbrecht, and Mélanie is currently converting her vineyards over to biodynamic after she has been organic for many years and she will be certified organic starting with the 2021 vintage, as well as the importance of blending

which she learned from Cheval Blanc leading to her creation of 'Mel' (representing her name Mélanie and the French word mélange meaning mixture) that is a white blend of Riesling, Pinot Gris, Gewürztraminer and Muscat.

Although Alsace is known for their white wines, they also make red wines from Pinot Noir as well and since Mélanie studied at Méo-Camuzet, known for making some of the top Pinot Noir wines such as their Grand Cru 'Clos de Vougeot', she decided once she came back to her family estate that her first task would be to make the Pinot Noir. "Okay papa I will take charge of the Pinot Noir", Mélanie announced to her father. But her father said instead they would split the Pinot Noir plot and he would make his wine and she would make her wine and then they would compare and decide which one was better. Since Mélanie felt that Pinot Noir was more about "delicacy and subtlety" she would use a cooler temperature while fermenting and less extraction and her father agreed that her Pinot was better and she would take over the winemaking completely in 2008. Today she continues that relationship with Méo-Camuzet by buying used barrels from them which she uses for her Pinot Noir.

Mélanie is the first women to take over her family vineyards in eight generations.