

LYDIA TOMEK
Winemaker, Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery



I guess, it all began in the late nineties when I enrolled at Brock University at the newly created Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture program. I was part of the second graduating class. While I studied, I got to work with some really great researchers, Helen Fisher and Wendy McFadden-Smith. And later did my thesis with Andy Reynolds. I had a lot of interest on the viticulture side of things.

After graduation I worked at a couple wineries and later was appointed as a winemaker at what is now Trius, it was Hillebrand then. I've been making wine professionally since.

I loved gardening, I loved history. But I also loved biology and the natural sciences since childhood when I wanted to be a perfume maker. I actually had to pick between med school and the oenology and viticulture program. Being a girl that grew up in the Niagara region and seeing what was happening around me and kind of listening to my heart and seeing what really interests me, I applied and stuck with the grape and wine industry.

And that was when I was 18 years old. And now I'm 42. I'd like to consider myself a seasoned winemaker, but I'm also a wife and I'm a mother, and there's something very fulfilling now for me when it comes to wine making and grape growing and being a mother.

Listen to full interview here: http://ggo75.am-live.ca/media/pqgijtw/gmt20220517-180126_recording-lydia-tomek.3gp

