

ANNA MARIA PONZI PRESIDENT

*M*aria Ponzi, second generation vintner, is President and Director of Sales and Marketing of Ponzi Vineyards, located in the Chehalem Mountains of Oregon's Willamette Valley. The winery was founded in 1970 by her parents Dick and Nancy Ponzi.

Growing up the daughter of a pioneering wine family, Maria has had the rare advantage of being directly involved in all areas of the wine business. Seeing the region grow firsthand, she gained a depth of knowledge that allows her to uniquely serve the state's wine industry.

Maria graduated from the School of Journalism at the University of Oregon in 1987. Her studies included a year each at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst and the Università per Stranieri in Perugia, Italy. Post-graduation, Maria worked in the publishing industry in Boston before returning home to the wine business.

Her current focus is growing the family business in the modern age of global wine sales. Maria oversees business operations, including two tasting rooms, national



distribution and export sales. She has been operating the company with her sister Luisa Ponzi, the winemaker, for the last 25 years. The winery currently produces 40,000 cases annually and farms over 130 certified sustainable vineyards.

In 1992, Maria was a founding board member and later President of the Oregon Chapter of Women for Wine Sense. She currently sits on the board of Travel Portland, an

organization which helps strengthen the state's economy, positioning the region as a top travel destination. She has served extended terms on Oregon Travel Experience, Willamette Valley Wineries Association and the Oregon Wine Board. Maria also is an active board member of the Portland Chapter of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) which serves abused and neglected children living in foster care.

Maria's husband Brett Fogelstrom of Portland's Fogelstrom Design Build completed the winery's modern new tasting room in June 2013. The couple have two beautiful children and reside minutes from the winery on 15 acres with their cherished chow chow, Sami.