

Hal Huffsmith, Viticulture & Enology Industry Liaison

Department of Viticulture & Enology

Viticulture & Enology Research Center

Hal Huffsmith was born and raised in Tulare, California back when the town could still be characterized as a small farming community. Hal attended Fresno State where he received a BS in Enology (Food Chemistry) and finished his formal education at Cornell with a MS in Ag Economics. After a harvest as the chemist at Sierra Wine Corporation, Hal worked for the British wine merchants, John Harvey and Sons at their wineries in Jerez, Spain (Harvey's Sherries) and Oporto, Portugal (Cockburn's Ports). Hal subsequently worked with the Claude Carreau family at Ch. Barbie and Ch. LaCarelle on the right bank in Bordeaux.

Once back in the States, Hal spent a short time at Buena Vista and Stag's Leap Wine Cellars prior to going to work for Trinchero Family Estates in 1976. He advanced from wine production / winemaking to the position of Senior Vice President of Vineyard Operations in 2004. As Senior Vice President Vineyard Operations, Hal worked with his team to manage all aspects of farming and vineyard development for the Trinchero properties which included about 9,500 acres of wine grapes spanning 10 California counties. Hal retired from Trinchero in 2017.

Throughout the years, Hal has been a supporter of Fresno State's viticulture and enology program by serving on the Viticulture and Enology Industry Advisory Board. In November of 2017, Hal was appointed as the Viticulture and Enology Industry Liaison by the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology. In this position, he will provide support to the incoming Department of Viticulture and Enology chair and Viticulture and Enology Research Center director, as well as the faculty, staff, and students.