



**NAPA VALLEY PRUNING CONTEST CHAMPION FEATURE:  
MARIA HERLINDA ROMERO, WALSH VINEYARD MANAGEMENT  
TOP FINISHER – 2015 NAPA COUNTY PRUNING CONTEST**

**FWF:** ¿Qué sintió al ganar el concurso de poda?

**MHR:** Es algo que no puedo explicar, fueron muchísimas mujeres y ganar entre todas para mí fue lo más importante. Fui como una inspiración para mis compañeras. Es algo muy bonito.

*FWF: How did it feel to win the Pruning Contest?*

*MHR: It's something I can't explain, there were so many women and winning among all of them was the most important thing for me. I was an inspiration for my coworkers, it was something very special.*

**FWF:** ¿Qué consejo daría a otros que quisieran competir (¡y ganar!) en el concurso?

**MHR:** La oportunidad es para todos y que todos podemos, que lo intenten que nadie piense que no puede o que alguien es mejor, todos somos mejores en algo. Si no ganan, por lo menos lo intentaron. Lo recomiendo muchísimo porque cuando quieres algo lo puedes conseguir.

*FWF: What advice would you give to others who wanted to compete (and win!) in the competition?*

*MHR: The opportunity is there for everyone and everyone is capable, I'd say try, let no one think they can't or that somebody else is better, we are all good at something. If they don't win, at least they tried. I highly recommend it because when you want something, you will get it.*

**FWF:** ¿Qué cree que lo/ha hace especialmente bueno en tu trabajo?

**MHR:** Yo pienso que los consejos de las personas que te enseñan, en mi caso hubo personas con mucha experiencia que me decían como trabajar en el campo. Tener disciplina me ha ayudado. Saber escuchar y aprender. El aprender de lo demás es lo mejor que puede hacer uno y es la forma de llegar más lejos.

*FWF: What do you think makes you particularly good at your work?*



*MHR: I think that the advice of the people who teach you, in my case there were people with a lot of experience who showed me how to work in the field. Having discipline has helped me. Knowing how to listen and learn. Learning from others is the best thing you can do and is the way to go farther.*

**FWF: ¿Cómo aprendió estas habilidades o capacidades? ¿Hubo alguien en particular que le enseñó?**

*MHR: Hubo gente que me enseñó, como supervisores, mayordomos, compañeros que me decían cómo se hace el trabajo, si no sabía preguntaba y le echaba muchas ganas para aprender. Si no sabía algo, yo miraba lo que hacían lo demás porque ellos sabían y yo no. Cuando no sabes cómo hacer el trabajo, que alguien te enseñe es muy importante. Estoy muy agradecida con mi compañía por darme la oportunidad de aprender porque en algunas compañías no te enseñan a trabajar y si no sabes no te dan el trabajo y no te dan la oportunidad de aprender.*

*FWF: How did you learn these skills/abilities? Was there someone that taught you?*

*MHR: There were people who taught me, such as supervisors, foremen, coworkers who showed me how to do the job, if I didn't know how to do it, I'd asked, and I was eager to learn. If I didn't know something, I would watch what the others were doing because they knew what they were doing, and I didn't. When you don't know what the job is like it is important to have someone teach you. I am very grateful to my company for giving me the opportunity to learn because in some companies they don't teach you how to work and if you don't know how to work they don't hire you, and they don't give you the opportunity to learn.*

**FWF: Cuando piensas en el trabajo en los viñedos, ¿cuál es la primera palabra que le viene a la mente?**

*MHR: La tranquilidad, sentirse uno libre, la felicidad que me hace sentir trabajar en el campo. Es como una paz, muy lindo sentirme libre y poder hacer lo que te gusta. A mí me encanta, me gusta estar en la naturaleza, el olor de las flores, el aire. Me gusta todo.*

*FWF: When you think about working in the vineyard – what is the first word that comes to mind?*

*MHR: Peace, the feeling of being free, the joy of working in the field makes me feel. It's the peacefulness, it's nice to feel free and to be able to do what you like. I love it, I like being in nature, the smell of the flowers, the air. I like everything.*

**FWF: A parte de su excelente en el campo, tiene algún talento como, por ejemplo, la cocina, bailar, ¿etc?**

*MHR: Me encanta cantar y de vez en cuando canto entre mis amigos. Y me dicen que soy muy buena, y siempre me preguntan que cuando voy a cantar porque les alegro el día.*

*FWF: Besides your excellent vineyard work, is there anything else that you are known for among your friends and family?*

*MHR: I love to sing and from time to time I sing for my friends. They're always asking me when I'm going to sing next because it makes their day.*

### **About the Farmworker Foundation's Annual Napa County Pruning Contest**

The Pruning Contest was created to recognize Napa's farmworkers and let the world know how important they are to the quality reputation of Napa Valley vineyards. Each year, competitors display their skill and speed in men's and women's divisions to win cash prizes, gift baskets, and the cherished Pruning Contest belt buckle. In 2022, the Napa Valley Farmworker Foundation will celebrate 20 years of the Napa County Pruning Contest.

### **About the Napa Valley Farmworker Foundation**

Founded by the Napa Valley Grapegrowers in 2011, the mission of the Napa Valley Farmworker Foundation is to support and promote Napa Valley's vineyard workers through education and professional development. The Napa Valley Farmworker Foundation is the only one of its kind in the United States, providing educational opportunities, advanced training programs, leadership and management classes, English literacy programs, and much more. To date, the Farmworker Foundation has offered education and professional development opportunities to more than 21,000 vineyard workers and their families. Visit [Napa Valley Farmworker Foundation](#) and follow on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)