



HERON

Here we catch up with Laely, long enough to have her answer some rapid-fire questions:

What was your first job?

Gymnastics instructor, ice cream scooper, and I was an on-air host for Teen Talk Radio on KOA radio in Denver, Colorado. I can't remember which came first.

Most memorable meal?

The first time I ate at El Bulli. It was mind-blowing: 36 courses of extraordinary art, creativity, and surprise. I loved every second of my 6-hour meal. I'll never forget the magic of that experience.

Favorite meal to cook?

As if there were one? Variety is the spice of life!

How did you develop your nose for wine?

It might have started in my childhood when my mom would open the spice cabinet and we'd play a guessing game.

City where you feel most at home?

Wherever I am. Truly.

Favorite market?

I love Mercat de la Boqueria in Barcelona.

What books are on your bedside table?

The Timetables of History, Talking to Strangers, The Long Emergency, and Hidden Valley Road.

Highlights over the past 25 years?

The highlights are endless. For the last 25 years, I've been able to explore the U.S., Europe, Asia, and many other countries selling my wine. The learning curve – from knowing nothing about business to what it's become – has been the greatest adventure of all.

Who have been your most important mentors?

I have mentors for many different areas of my life. I am thankful for them all.

Do you ever conduct focus groups?

I often walk up to people and ask them their opinion. It's particularly easy on an airplane when I have a captive audience.

What motivates you?

New adventures, exciting new things, people, places, and cultures.

What are you curious about?

Everything.

What do you do in your free time?

Travel, eat, drink, exercise, learn new things, carpe \$#%@ diem!

What's next for you?

In 2014 I had the incredible fortune of acquiring two very tiny, very special vineyards. Domaine Lux Fontis is my new life. In Chateauneuf de Pape I have a half-hectare gem, and in Gigondas I have 1-1/2 hectares high in elevation. I was also lucky enough to find a very small house centered in the picturesque village of Gigondas. It's a return to my French winemaking roots, only better than I could have imagined. It's made me the happiest person in the world.