



**NAPA VALLEY PRUNING CONTEST CHAMPION FEATURE:
MANUEL TÉLLEZ, JOSEPH PHELPS VINEYARDS
TOP FINISHER – 2020 NAPA COUNTY PRUNING CONTEST**

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

MT: Sentí alegría porque ya había ido tres veces al concurso y ya no tenía ganas de ir, pero un amigo me impulsó a ir. Mi mentalidad era ir a ganar, pero son tantos los participantes, era complicado, pero aun así iba pensando en llevarme un premio. La tercera fue la vencida, antes de ir les dije a mis compañeros que iba a ganar y por suerte así fue.

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

MT: I was happy because I had already been to the contest three times and I didn't feel like going, but a friend encouraged me to go. My mentality was to go to win, but there are so many participants, it was complicated, but even so I was thinking of taking a prize. The third time was the charm, before going I told my friends that I was going to win and luckily, I did.



Photo by Suzanne Becker Bronk

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

MT: Que se animen a ir para que concursen, es bonito participar entre todos los compañeros de los diferentes viñedos. Es bueno para todos para que se den cuenta como trabaja cada persona, no pierdes nada con ir y darte una oportunidad.

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

MT: It is nice to participate among peers from the different vineyard companies. It's good for everyone to see how each person works, you don't lose anything by going and giving yourself a chance.

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

MT: Los años que llevo trabajando en los viñedos y tener mentalidad, el trabajo que haces en tu compañía.

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

MT: The years I've been working in the vineyards, your mindset, and how you perform at your workplace.

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

MT: Cuando empecé en el 2000, me enseñó un supervisor que tenía en Sonoma. Él me enseñó a hacer muchos trabajos del viñedo y allí fue donde aprendí.

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

MT: When I started in 2000, I was trained by a supervisor in Sonoma. He taught me how to do a lot of vineyard work and that's where I learned.

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

MT: Me siento a gusto y contento de trabajar y respirar el aire fresco, convivir con la gente.

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

MT: I feel comfortable and happy to work and breathe the fresh air and interact with my peers.

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

MT: Me gusta mucho cocinar

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

MT: I really enjoy cooking.

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](#)