Joe Harden graduated with his Bachelor of Science in Viticulture and Enology at the University of California, Davis but pressed pause briefly on his oenology career in order to test the waters of professional basketball. In 2012 he joined Robert Mondavi Winery, where he spent six years on the winemaking team before eventually being named winemaker for Bordeaux varietals and oversaw production of the renowned To Kalon Cabernet Sauvignon wines.

In 2018, Joe moved across the street, taking the helm as Nickel & Nickel Winemaker and overseeing the production of Nickel & Nickel’s expansive portfolio of 100 percent varietal, single-vineyard wines from the Napa & Russian River Valleys.