

# Dundee Hills Winegrowers Association

## 5. A winemaking legacy passed down to the next generations

In the fall of 1964, a young graduate of the viticulture and enology program at UC Davis gathered 3000 vine cuttings from California vineyards and headed to Oregon. He found exactly what he wanted on a south exposed slope in what was then known as the Red Hills of Dundee.

David Lett planted his first vines and christened The Eyrie Vineyards. Soon after his vines went into the ground, new wine growing neighbors joined him, including Dick Erath, Bill Blosser and Susan Sokol Blosser. After a blind tasting of these pioneering Pinot Noir wines was held in Paris in 1979, and the wines outranked many of Burgundy's best, more wine producers turned their attention to the Dundee Hills.

### **THE SECOND GENERATION IS STILL INNOVATING AT SOKOL BLOSSER**

Sokol Blosser is indeed a multi-generational winemaking family! Alex and Alison Sokol Blosser, brother and sister, have been at the helm since taking over operations from Susan Sokol Blosser and Bill Blosser in 2008. Today, Alison is CEO and Co-President, and Alex is head Winemaker and Co-President. What's more, during the summer the third generation comes to work at the winery, helps in the tasting room, office, vineyards, and winery.

### **FOUR GENERATIONS LIVING IN THE DUNDEE HILLS AT ARTERBERRY MARESH**

Probably the only four-generation family living on a farm and winery in the Dundee Hills, the Maresch family includes Jim Senior Maresch, still going strong at 91; his daughter Martha and her husband Steve Mikami; Martha's son Jim and his wife, Alex with young son, Jim. The middle Jim (lots of Jims!) is the Maresch winemaker producing Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, using the skills he learned from his grandparents, Jim and Loie Maresch and his mother, Martha.

As children, Martha and her brother watered the baby vines in their oldest blocks with a water barrel and a hose pulled along in a Red Flyer wagon. Those vines are still in production! And the key block of the Chardonnay they're known for was planted by Martha while she was pregnant with Jim, the current winemaker.



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## **FATHER AND SON STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE**

Ken Wright of Ken Wright Cellars is a pioneer of the Willamette Valley. His innovation of enology and viticulture contributed to the success of Oregon's Wine Industry as a premier grape growing region of the world.

His eldest son, Cody Wright, founded Purple Hands Winery in the Dundee Hills. He successfully built his own winery and planted vineyards in premier AVA's, attaining major recognition from global critics and press.

He is following his father's legacy to create excellence in the vineyard and winery, collaborating with Ken closely in critical winery and vineyard strategy. Cody also brings a dynamic vision to an ever-evolving industry and continues to build on his family's pedigree while contributing to the acclaim of his family's combined over half a century of experience.

## **KNUDSEN VINEYARDS, HONORING THE LEGACY**

Knudsen Vineyards is an iconic vineyard in the heart of the acclaimed Dundee Hills AVA overlooking the fertile Willamette Valley, majestic Mt. Hood and the North Cascade mountain range. The Knudsen family has grown grapes and made wine here for 45 years.

The vineyard was established in 1971 by Cal and Julia Lee Knudsen, true pioneers of Oregon's wine industry. Cal and Julia Lee loved this place and derived great pleasure from sharing their grapes and wine with friends and family. Their children, Page, Cal, Colin and David, embrace their family's legacy and honor their parents by making great wine reflecting the unique attributes of the land.

Their goal is to produce exceptional quality, distinctive Pinot Noir and Chardonnay wines. Practicing sustainable viticulture, cultivating to optimize fruit quality, their grapes possess a richness of flavor and complexity unique to their vines, Jory soil and location.

## **WINTER'S HILL, A FAMILY OF FARMING**

Hans & Lena Winter began the story of Winter's Hill when they purchased a farm and orchards in the Dundee Hills in 1961. Their daughter Emily and her husband Peter Gladhart established the Winter's Hill vineyards in 1990. Today they work in partnership with their son, Winemaker Russell Gladhart. Winter's Hill honors their founders and their story of immigration with the Hans & Lena dessert wine made from the estate pinot gris.



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### **LANGE ESTATE, A FATHER/SON DUO AND ARTISANAL WINE-MAKING PHILOSOPHIES**

Thirty years ago, Don and Wendy Lange founded their winery in the Dundee Hills of Oregon's northern Willamette Valley. The year 1987 marked the Langes' first vintage and consisted of the three varietals they embrace today: Pinot Noir, Pinot Gris, and Chardonnay.

Lange Estate is known for crafting beautifully balanced wines from fruit grown on the winery Estate, located in the heart of the prestigious Dundee Hills AVA. Jesse Lange, Don's son, joined the winemaking team in 2004, continuing the legacy of Lange Estate. Currently, the father/son duo bottles six different Pinot Noirs, focusing on terroir through small lot, artisanal wine-making philosophies.