



Stephen Cary—Winemaker

Starting his 22nd year as Head Winemaker at Yamhill Valley Vineyards,, Stephen Cary, an Oregon native from Reedsport, has a long and fascinating background .

Stephen attended Indiana University and received a BS in Communication. He served as a flight navigator officer in the US Navy, seeing active duty in Vietnam. Following his return, he became involved in the food and beverage industry in California, Montana, Oregon and Colorado. He worked with a fine wine distributor in Portland and co-founded the Steamboat Pinot Noir Conference, where he still serves Conference Director.

In 1983, he founded a sales and marketing agency to nationally promote Oregon wines, and co-chaired the benchmark Burgundy/Oregon Challenge in New York in 1985.

In 1991, after working numerous harvests with legendary Pinot Noir producers in California, Oregon, Australia, and New Zealand, Stephen accepted the position of assistant winemaker at Yamhill Valley Vineyards, working under owner Dr. Denis Burger. He was promoted to head winemaker the following year and has directed the winemaking and consistent excellence of Yamhill Valley Vineyards wines for the past 22 years.

Stephen's approach is clear. " At Yamhill Valley Vineyards, we follow the Burgundian model and refer to ourselves as winegrowers. The concept is that on a wine estate there is a clear integration of viticulture and oenology such that one cannot be separated from the other. In an estate situation, grape growing and winemaking are integrally related.

The role of the vineyard manager and the winemaking team, working together, is to coax the richest expression of 'place' from the various blocks on the property. It is only through years of experience working with the same sites that we are able to attain the goal. We use the best technology available, some new, some old, in our efforts to attain the purest 'terroir' expression possible.

When not winemaking, Stephen can be found "wetting a line" in the world's most exotic fly-fishing waters.

