

JIM PERRY

OWNER & WINEMAKER AT EAGLE RIDGE VINEYARD

WHEN IT COMES TO WINEMAKING, WHAT'S ONE THING YOU KNOW NOW THAT YOU WISH YOU HAD KNOWN BEFORE YOU STARTED?

I did not realize how much work the wine making would be. I was looking at it as a retirement project and it became a retirement style of living even at our small volume.

WHO HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST AS A WINEMAKER?

From the very beginning, Earl Ault from Cedar Mountain has been a wealth of information, turning us from a vineyard to a winery. Extremely helpful and educating me every step of the way. So many others in the Valley are so willing to share tips and ideas, it has been amazing.

WHICH OF YOUR WINES REPRESENTS YOUR VISION THE BEST?

My personal vision of a great wine is the Petite Sirah, deep, bold and rich it is Eagle Ridges' signature wine. A perfect pairing is a Filet Mignon and a bottle of Petite Sirah and a few chocolate truffles for dessert.

WHAT WINE VARIETAL DO YOU THINK IS UNDERRATED?

In turn, I think the most under-rated varietal is Malbec. We've been purchasing local Malbec fruit and I am amazed at the wine they are producing.

BESIDES YOUR WINES, WHAT ARE A FEW OF YOUR FAVORITE WINES?

Of course my favorite wines are red and those include Wente's Charles Wetmore Cab & Crooked Vines "Trifecta".

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB/WORST JOB YOU'VE EVER HAD?

Wow, my first job was in 1963 at the Alameda County Fair and a lovely one it was....cleaning all the toilets at night! Whew!

WHEN YOU ARE ALL WINE-D OUT, WHAT IS YOUR DRINK OF CHOICE?

My "wined-out" drink is Tequila and Orange juice, but it's rare that I get to that point.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PLACE IN THE WORLD YOU'VE VISITED?

While we have done some traveling around, my favorite spot is Venice, Italy. I love the quietness of the City and the history that is there. Also, enjoyed the nearby Friuli-Venezia Giulia Wine Region. It is here, Cheryl fell in love with the Pinot Grigio.

WHAT BRINGS YOU THE GREATEST JOY?

The greatest joy in my life is our family, especially the grand-daughters. The two of them are truly life's "just desserts" and that is why our dessert wines have been named after them. The loss of our son last year, really drove home the importance of family and how brief the time we have with them might be.



*Jim & Cheryl Perry, Owners of
Eagle Ridge Vineyard*

"My favorite part about the Livermore Valley wine region is the comradeship among all the wineries. Everyone is willing to help, to listen and especially share their knowledge. As we continue to grow, I hope this never goes away."

- Jim Perry,
Eagle Ridge Vineyard



PROUD MEMBER OF THE
LIVERMORE VALLEY
WINEGROWERS
ASSOCIATION

EAGLE RIDGE VINEYARD

FAMILY OWNED...LIVERMORE GROWN



Eagle Ridge is a small vineyard and winery nestled in the foothills with a spectacular view of the Livermore Valley. Using only local grapes, our focus is to produce small lots of excellent wines emphasizing the uniqueness of each varietal. In 2006, we became the first solar powered Livermore Valley winery.

HISTORY AND WINES

In 2001, Jim & Cheryl Perry purchased a 3 acre site on South Livermore Avenue to have country space to garden and leave the neighborhood confines behind. There, they planted 2 acres of their favorite varietal, Petite Sirah, with a vague plan of becoming a small lot provider. Thus "Eagle Ridge Vineyard" was born, named after the Eagles that had returned to the Livermore Valley in 1996.

The plan started out as growing enough grapes to add a little income to the family pot or to make a little wine for friends & business. Hand tended, sometimes by flashlight, this small vineyard flourished beyond their dreams. Their first harvest in 2004 was over 3 tons. From that moment, they jumped in to winemaking with both feet and UC Davis & Las Positas found them consistently on their wine-making rosters.

In 2004, they moved and expanded to a 10 acre site in the low foothills off Tesla Road. This expansion has allowed them to include their signature Petite Sirah but also Zinfandel, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Pinot Grigio.

Eagle Ridge Vineyard prides themselves in being very family oriented and have several areas appropriate for younger guests. On any weekend you will find at least one of the owners, plus children, 'in-laws' or granddaughters helping out in the tasting room. The granddaughters have even contributed parts of their own names to Eagle Ridge's wonderful port "MadLyn" and "MadCait". They are actually quite adept at hitting up visitors to contribute to their favorite animal rescue cause, donating more than \$350 by selling lavender items in 2011.

Eagle Ridge specializes in using only Livermore grown grapes to showcase what great fruit and wine can be crafted here in the Livermore Valley. Since 2011, most of the wines you find in the tasting room are estate grown. We remain committed to our primary goal of creating small lots of exceptional Livermore wines.

What seemed to be a hobby in the 1980's and only a passing thought in 2001 is now a reality for Jim & Cheryl Perry of Eagle Ridge Vineyard.

TASTING ROOM

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Open Saturday – Sunday
12–4:30 PM



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