



PARTNERSHIP OVERVIEW



MARCHESE PIERO ANTINORI, known for his lifelong curiosity about how grapes are grown around the world, journeyed to Washington's Columbia Valley in 1992 at the urging of Andre Tchelistcheff, also a wine industry legend and then a consultant to Ste. Michelle Wine Estates.

During that trip, Antinori discovered an emerging wine region supported by the zealous leadership of Chateau Ste. Michelle, the Northwest's oldest and most-acclaimed winery highly regarded for its innovative work within its vineyards and winery.

Antinori's renowned Solaia and Tignanello wines revolutionized the Italian wine industry in the 1970s with the introduction of Cabernet Sauvignon and French barriques, among other innovations. In Washington, he found old-world character, structure and fruit expression in the vineyards and cellars. He then turned to Chateau Ste. Michelle to form a partnership, based on the mutual pursuit of grape-growing and winemaking philosophies

The partnership introduced Col Solare, Italian for "shining hill," with the 1995 vintage. Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot were established as the dominant varietals, and the partners worked closely to forge their two distinct grape-growing and winemaking cultures into Col Solare's powerful yet silky style.

In 2000, Ted Baseler, President/CEO of Ste. Michelle Wine Estates, and Antinori first talked about building a winery properly scaled and singularly focused on Col Solare to best achieve the wine's quality potential.

Several sites were considered before Baseler introduced the Antinoris to Red Mountain, one of the Columbia Valley's most celebrated sub-appellations and known for its Cabernet Sauvignon. Forty acres were purchased there in 2005 for a Col Solare winery and estate vineyard.

Ground breaking for the state-of-the-art winery was in 2005. Antinori and Baseler directed architects to design a modern showplace that used sustainable building materials to express the surrounding geography.

The winery design is an architectural confluence of old- and modern-world aesthetics and is rooted in tradition and history much like the two wine producers. The estate vineyard is a primary feature of the overall design. To capture ideal sun exposure throughout the site, vineyard rows radiate around the property's façade like a graphic image of the sun.

Winery construction was completed in time for harvest 2006. The vineyard was planted in 2007, and the first full crop is expected in 2010.

COL SOLARE™ RED MOUNTAIN WINERY AND ESTATE VINEYARD

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