

ERATH

WINERY

the Art of Pinot



WINEMAKER BIOGRAPHY

GARY HORNER

Gary Horner is the winemaker for Erath Winery, the original winery in the Dundee Hills, and one of Oregon's early premium Pinot Noir producers.

In 2003, Horner arrived at a very rustic, northwest winery in Dundee, Oregon, an institution that was more than ready for his innovative talents. He had found a kindred spirit in wine pioneer Dick Erath, who shared his background in science and a reverence for Oregon's unique terroir.

As Horner began to add his own distinctive and personal touches to Erath wines, he continued to utilize the latest technology in the winery to bring out the very best expression of Pinot Noir. He is respectful of the delicacy of Pinot Noir and focuses on showcasing its soft, fruit-forward characteristics; he avoids over-extraction, and is judicious about barrel selection. Honoring his commitment to create high quality wines, he perfectly balances tradition with the latest winemaking technology.

Horner has a B.S. in Pharmacy Science from the University of Washington and Doctorate from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science. He first began to make wine at home while working as a clinical pharmacist. In 1988, he decided to take the plunge and leave behind his pharmacy jacket for his winery galoshes; he and his family moved to Oregon's Willamette Valley.

Between 1988 and 2003 Horner held myriad posts of increasing responsibility at notable Northwest wine establishments, participated in UC Davis' famed wine education program, and even created his own label, Destiny Vintners. Over the years he received hands-on, practical, sensory learning from those who built the Oregon wine industry.

Past experiences continue to influence Horner today as he looks ahead, and to his role in bridging quality Oregon Pinot into the next generation.

In addition to taking an active role in the Oregon wine community at large, Horner actively contributes to the Oregon Wine Board, providing insights and helping direct research dollars for the continued advancement of winegrowing and winemaking techniques. He also sits on the board of the Erath Family Foundation, an endowment created by Dick Erath and Ste. Michelle Wine Estate in 2006 to honor the transition of Erath Winery to new ownership, and to support continuing research and education in the Oregon wine industry.

"Oregon's vast amount of cool-climate viticultural research is often overlooked, yet it has been absolutely central to winegrowing and winemaking not only in Oregon, but around the world," he says. "Our continued investment in science will accelerate the quality and consistency of our Pinot product."

Horner adds: "I am committed to making the best Pinot Noir this region has to offer – it's time-honored, authentic and uniquely Oregon."