

## Applegate House Vineyard: Wine with Oregon history

By **CRAIG REED**  
For the Capital Press

YONCALLA, Ore. — Pioneer Jesse Applegate planted a 12-acre vineyard in 1876 on property his family had homesteaded 20 years earlier.

That vineyard was eventually destroyed by an insect infestation. But now, over a century later, a young vineyard is maturing on a southeast-facing slope of the property a couple miles east of Yoncalla, Ore., in northern Douglas County.

In 2014, Jessica Applegate, a sixth generation descendant of the Applegate family, and Nathan Wood, owner of Elkton Vineyard Management, prepped and planted the 3-acre Applegate House Vineyard on what had previously been sheep pasture and hay ground. There are 2 acres of Pinot noir and 1 acre of Albarino.

“You plant what you love to drink if it works for the land,” Applegate said.

The vineyard is across the backyard of the Applegate House, the oldest home in Oregon owned by the same family since its construction in the early 1850s. The house is on the National Register of Historic Places.

“I think of this as a stewardship project,” Jessica Applegate



Craig Reed/For the Capital Press

**Jessica Applegate, owner of the Applegate House Vineyard near Yoncalla, Ore., shows off the label of the Applegate wine. The Applegate House is featured on the label.**

gate said. “It’s a way for this old house to go into the future while still respecting its past.”

Applegate plans to eventually resume tours of the house and the vineyard and to sell Applegate wine with those proceeds used to maintain the two-story home.

“We want more of a boutique vineyard, not a mass production operation,” she said. “We’re looking for quality over quantity, keeping it small and manageable for us and making sure we’re following our values for it.”

Wood managed the vineyard for its first five years, and Isabel Newlin has been the vineyard manager for the past two years.

## Avennia: A rising wine-making star in Woodinville

By **HEATHER SMITH THOMAS**  
For the Capital Press

WOODINVILLE, Wash. — Winemaker Chris Peterson tells people that the success of this venture — which began in 2010 — is the result of two people with complementary skills who met at a fortuitous time.

Chris had the winemaking skills, after many years working at DeLille Cellars. He started the Avennia project with Marty Taucher, a local executive who wanted to branch out into the wine trade.

Andrew Bradshaw, who joined the operation in 2016 to open and operate their tasting room and become manager of retail operations and services, says the two partners had a similar vision.

Marty graduated from Oregon State University in 1977 and started working at Microsoft in 1984. He led their public relations and event marketing teams for 10 years and his work involved a lot of travel around the world. During those travels, his interest in wine and winemaking grew. He still enjoys seeking out new vintners and wine styles from all over the world.

Following his passion, he took classes at South Seattle Community College and graduated with a degree in wine. In 2009, he became a crush intern at DeLille Cellars, where he met Chris.

Chris graduated from the University of Washington, and then became the first graduate of Walla Walla Community College’s Enology and Viticulture program. Later he taught



Avennia Wine

**Marty Taucher and Chris Peterson blending wine trials at Avennia Wine in Woodinville, Wash.**

classes on wines of the world.

Chris has traveled to all the major wine growing regions of France, Tuscany and Sicily where regional wine, vineyard tours and relationships with other winemakers inspired his winemaking practices.

Eventually, he worked at DeLille Cellars at Woodinville and spent seven years helping make some of Washington state’s most heralded and award-winning wines.

After he and Marty met, they laid the foundation for Avennia. When Marty asked Chris to review his draft winery business plan in 2009, it coincided with Chris’ desire to start a new chapter in his own winemaking career.

They chose the name Avennia for their new winery, the Latin name for the city of Avignon in southern France. Chris has always admired

French wines and their balance between fruit and non-fruit character. He envisioned making Washington wines that portrayed this balance, yet still remain unmistakably Washington.

Their respective strengths and experiences enabled them to forge an effective partnership, with their passionate commitment to signature vineyards and natural processes in the cellar, resulting in timeless world-class wines.

With support and input from Chris’ wife Lauren, and Marty’s wife Colleen, Avennia became a reality. By the end of 2010, 16 tons of fruit were transformed into wine (released in 2012) and they had relationships in place with some of the state’s best growers, to secure the best fruit in the region for future vintages.

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