

A New Chapter for Eola Hills Wine Cellars

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With the New Year comes a new chapter for Eola Hills Wine Cellars. Founder and CEO Tom Huggins will step into semi-retirement, promoting Head Winemaker Steve Anderson to the General Manager role effective January 1, 2019.

Steve Anderson, General Manager

Steve Anderson has been promoted to General Manager after serving as Head Winemaker since 2000. Anderson graduated from the Horticulture program at Oregon State University after serving in the U.S. Army.

Anderson joined Eola Hills Wine Cellars as a cellar rat for the 1993 harvest season. Within weeks, he was promoted to Assistant Winemaker where he gained on-the-job training in winemaking fueled by a passion for the craft. In 2000, after two years as a winemaker in the Umpqua Valley, Huggins invited Anderson to serve as Eola Hills' fifth winemaker and has produced a diverse portfolio of wines ever since. Anderson is the longest serving winemaker in Eola Hills' history and second General Manager following Huggins.

Tom Huggins explains, "I have been blessed to work with some of Oregon's best winemakers over the years, and from my perspective, Steve's the best. His versatility in making wonderful pinots to late harvest dessert wines and award-winning sparkling wines is unprecedented. He has shown the business savvy, the loyalty, the work ethic, and the leadership qualities that can take Eola Hills to the next level. He wasn't just the logical choice to take my place – he was the only choice!"

Tom Huggins, Founder

After serving as CEO since 1982, Founder and fellow Oregon State University alumnus, Tom Huggins looks forward to semi-retirement in 2019. As a major shareholder, Huggins will continue to serve on the Board in addition to providing stewardship for the further development of Legacy Estate vineyard and event property. Eola Hills' popular international trips and sports road trips will continue to be coordinated and hosted by Huggins.

When asked about this new chapter, Huggins explained, "I don't like being idle, I'm no good at golf, I don't fish, and frankly, I often tire of the day-to-day business of running the winery. I love to travel, I love sports, and I love working at our new Legacy Estate Vineyard. So, that's what I'm going to do in the future! I can leave the day-to-day to my right arm, a guy that's been making great wines here at Eola for over 20 years, Steve Anderson."

About Eola Hills Wine Cellars

In 1982, Tom Huggins convinced a handful of close friends and family members to join him in investing in a 35 acre wheat field on Oak Grove Road, just a few miles west of Salem, on a site he felt was ideal for growing grapes. This group of young Oregonians prepared the site and planted the Pinot Noir and Chardonnay vines themselves, producing the winery's first 1,500 cases in 1986.

Today, Eola Hills Wine Cellars is still locally owned and operated and is one of Oregon's largest wineries, farming over 300 acres of prime vineyard land. Production now surpasses 50,000 cases of fine wines that are enjoyed across the country and internationally.

Based in Rickreall, Oregon, Eola Hills Wine Cellars is a cornerstone of the Eola-Amity Hills AVA and crafts new world wines with a uniquely Oregonian character. Offering extraordinary value for its robust portfolio of wines including Willamette Valley Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Pinot Gris, Rosé, a full line of dessert wines, and méthode champenoise sparkling wines.

We invite you to join us for flight tastings at our two properties: Rickreall Winery, open 10am-5pm daily, and Legacy Estate Vineyard, seasonal hours available on website.

Contact:

Katie Hoffman

Director of Marketing

Eola Hills Wine Cellars

501 S. Pacific Hwy, 99W, Rickreall OR 93731

503.623.2405

marketing@eolahillswinery.com

www.eolahillswinery.com