

Lynn Penner-Ash

Winemaker

Lynn's interest in winemaking grew out of an early passion for the sciences. After a summer working for the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., she studied Botany at the University of California, Davis, the birthplace of the American wine industry. In her junior year she changed her major to Viticulture. Then, after working the graveyard shift during crush at Domaine Chandon, she changed her degree again, from Viticulture to Enology.

After graduation, Lynn worked as the enologist at Stag's Leap Wine Cellars for four years. She joined the Oregon wine industry in 1988 as winemaker for Rex Hill Winery. Consistently producing award-winning wines, she became Rex Hill's President and Chief Operating Officer in 1993 and continued on with Rex Hill until March of 2002.

Lynn has served on the board of the International Pinot Noir Celebration from 1996-2002, and acted as President in 1998. She is actively involved in the Salud! Barrel Auction and was a member of the steering committee from 1998 to 2001. Lynn currently serves on the Oregon Pinot Camp Board of Directors.

Lynn started Penner-Ash Wine Cellars with husband Ron in 1998, carefully crafting small amounts of Pinot noir and Syrah, while she was still at Rex Hill. Their early success with the label caused them to dream of what they could create, and in 2001, with investment partners Chris and Tyanne Dussin, they began building the Penner-Ash brand full time.

Penner-Ash has achieved impressive growth, going from 125 cases of Pinot noir in 1998 to a projected 5,000 cases of Pinot noir and Syrah in 2005. The growth is possible not

only based upon their own partnership but with the help of investors and friends, Chris and Tyanne Dussin. “We would have had to make compromises along the way that would not allow me to make the best possible wines. Our partnership with the Dussins has allowed us to stay focused on the quality of our wines but at the same time continue to build a national brand,” adds Lynn.

Today, Ron and Lynn live in Portland, Oregon. They have two children, son Cameron and daughter Taylor, making time in their busy lives to enjoy Oregon’s wonderful natural beauty with whitewater rafting, kayaking, skiing, snowboarding, camping, backpacking, mountain biking and fly-fishing.