

Laurent Montalieu and Danielle Andrus Montalieu

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Danielle and Laurent are among the best-known and respected couples in the Oregon wine industry. Both were introduced to wine at an early age: Laurent as a child in Bordeaux, and Danielle through the Andrus family's Pine Ridge winery in the Napa Valley.

Laurent took his first steps in his great-grandfather's vineyard in Bordeaux. His eventual interest in viticulture led him to the Institute of Oenology of Bordeaux, where he immersed himself in studies of vineyard management and winemaking.

After graduating in 1987 he worked for Chateau La Tour Blanche near Sauternes, and Mumm Cuvée Napa in the Napa Valley before moving to Oregon in 1988. After seven successful vintages at Bridgeview Vineyards in Cave Junction, Laurent started WillaKenzie Estate in 1995 as partner and winemaker. His passion for "wine growing" demands the highest quality standards in the vineyard coupled with a philosophy of minimal intervention in the production of handcrafted wines.

Danielle's introduction to wine came at the tender age of ten when she began "working" in the cellar at her family's then small winery, Pine Ridge in the Napa Valley. Over time, her interest evolved to encompass all aspects of winery production, sales and marketing.

A native Oregonian, Danielle returned to the Willamette Valley in 1996 to start the family's other winery, Archery Summit in Dundee. After 6 years in hospitality, sales, and eventually managing the day-to-day operations, Danielle left to join Laurent and pursue the dream of owning and operating their own winery, Soléna Estate. They purchased their first plot of land in 1999 and opened the doors of Soléna Estate, named after their daughter, in 2001.

Both are active members and advocates for several children's charities and ¡Salud! an organization which supports healthcare services for seasonal vineyard workers and their families. They are also involved in the Classic Wines Auction, Wild About Game, the International Pinot Noir Celebration and Danielle was one of the founder's of Oregon Pinot Camp.

Timeline:

- **1999: Purchased and 80- acre estate in the Yamhill Carlton District as their engagement gift to each other.**
- **2000: Planted Domaine Danielle Laurent Vineyard; ...and got married and registered with premium nurseries for six different clones of Pinot Noir vines as wedding gifts. The vineyard is farmed biodynamically.**

Domaine Danielle Laurent is also the name of the couple's winemaking, wine sales and marketing consultancy.

- **2001: Soléna Estate founded:** www.solenaestate.com Exclusive ownership by the Montalieu. Soléna is the combination of the Spanish and French words Solana and Solene, celebrating the sun and the moon, and the name that Laurent and Danielle gave to their daughter.
- **2002: Soléna Estate launched** In May, Laurent and Danielle released their first bottling and, shortly thereafter, opening a tasting room in Carlton.

Address: 213 S. Pine Street, Carlton. Phone (503) 852-0082

- **2003 Laurent leaves WillaKenzie** to concentrate on producing wines for Soléna. Focus is on wines from warm climate varietals while the couple waits for their estate vineyard to mature.
- **2003: Northwest Wine Company:** www.nwwineco.com The brainchild of Laurent who started the company in response to the growing demand for a premier, technologically advanced custom winegrowing facility. Located on N.E. Orchard Avenue in McMinnville, the 115,000 sq ft temperature-controlled facility allows Laurent and his winemaking team to make wines under pristine conditions utilizing the best equipment available. With 25 clients, he is producing over 100,000 cases a year of individual wines from 55 vineyards in 15 AVAs. The facility was originally a Pillsbury pie factory and has the unique ability to refrigerate multiple individual chambers. Laurent is the senior winemaker. Partnership with John Niemeier of Oregon Wine Services.
- **2004: Soléna releases first Pinot Noir and Pinot Gris.** Winery's production increases towards goal of 6,000 cases.
- **2006: Opened Northwest Wine Bar:** www.nwwinebar.com A trend-setting wine bar featuring wines from Oregon and beyond. Fine fare food menu and a contemporary atmosphere for all wine enthusiasts to enjoy. Located in McMinnville's historic downtown and open 7 days a week.

Address: 326 NE Davis St., McMinnville. Ph: (503)435.1295

- **2007: Purchased Hyland Vineyard** in partnership with John Niemeier. First planted in 1971, Hyland is one of Oregon's oldest and largest vineyards consisting of 154 total acres with just over 129 acres currently under vine. Hyland grapes have contributed to decades of top scoring wines for benchmark producers such as Soléna, Bergstrom, Ponzi, Retour, Penner-Ash, Erath and Sokol Blosser.

Planted by four families (the Kreimeyers, Markleys, Welches and Trenhailes) working cooperatively and managed personally by Jack Trenhaile until 2007, Hyland has established itself as a treasure of the Oregon wine history with some of the oldest and best plantings of Wadensvill, Pommard and Coury Pinot Noir in the country.

Hyland is managed by Joel Myers of Vinetenders, one of Oregon's top viticulturalists, whose extensive experience with older vineyards spans 32 years when he worked alongside pioneer David Lett at the Eyrle vineyard.

- **2008: Planted Grand Cru Estate Vineyard** in the rolling hills above the winery.

50 acres of biodynamic vineyard in the Yamhill Carlton District. Partnership with Steve and Marian Bailey.

- **2008:** Added 65 Acres to Hyland Estate.
- **2008: Announced The Grand Cru Estates.** www.thegrandcru estates.com
Partnership with Steve and Marian Bailey.

A private club which offers members the extraordinary winemaking experience of handcrafting their own premium Pinot Noir from the region's finest grapes. Expert winemaking guidance is provided by Laurent and friend Tony Rynders, in a beautiful estate winery. This is the ultimate wine-growing experience and a unique opportunity to handcraft a single barrel of wine from any of 17 top vineyards and produce a custom pinot noir with your own name and label. Members may participate in as many or as few hands-on experiences as they wish: harvest in the fall, barrel tasting in the winter, blending trials in the spring, label design and bottling in the summer. Members are assisted at each phase of the process, producing wines comparable to the Willamette Valley's finest.

Other benefits include:

- Access to the estate, vineyards, winery and biodynamic gardens, all of which are reserved exclusively for members and their guests.
 - The opportunity to use the estate for private events
 - Personal concierge service for assistance in planning wine country excursions, making hotel and restaurant reservations, and scheduling tastings at local wineries and more.
 - Culinary arts events with James Beard Award Winning Chef Philippe Boulot including wine and food pairing seminars, winemaker dinners, cooking classes, and the "Les Amis de Philippe" guest chef series with nationally recognized chefs from the U.S. and abroad.
 - Educational seminars, presented by both local and international professionals, on winemaking, viticulture, biodynamic farming, and more.
 - A 20% case discount on purchasing wines offered in the Portland area market, through NW Wine Bar in McMinnville.
 - Personal wine production from one to six barrels (25-150 cases) per vintage.
 - A one-case wine locker at the winery.
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- **2009: Construction of Soléna, Grand Cru Estates winery** in partnership with Steve and Marian Bailey. Completed in time for the 2009 Harvest. The unique, 18,000 sq ft winery designed by Portland architect Richard Brown, is a combination of modern technology and old-world charm. The exterior, reminiscent of a traditional farm with its stone and weathered wood, includes eco-friendly features like solar power, rainwater collection, and reclaimed wood. Inside, the heavy, open-beamed ceilings, rock fireplace and broad vineyard views create an atmosphere of rustic luxury in the common rooms. The professional kitchen is every chef's dream; the winery and cellars the latest in the state-of-the-art.

Official Opening: Thanksgiving Weekend, 2009

Address: 17100 NE Woodland Loop Road, Yamhill. Ph: (503) 662-4730

- **2009: Planted 55 Acres of Pinot Noir on Hyland Vineyard Estates.**
- **2009: Announced Hyland Vineyard Estates** www.hylandvineyardestates.com is introduced for sale as a new kind of “Gentleman's Farm.” Unique in Oregon, this estate property consists of 9 separate parcels including a home site. Each will be tastefully developed to preserve the integrity and beauty of this lovely property and will include planted vineyard that will continue to be operated and managed by Joel Meyers. This allows the homeowner the benefits of owning a vineyard for pleasure without the responsibilities of vineyard management.
 - Realtor: Kendall Bergstrom kendall@equitygroup.com, (503) 799-2596
- June, 2010 Domaine Danielle Laurent vineyard is Demeter certified.